School Rumble

スクールランブル

Vol. 12

Shonen Magazine Comics

小林尽

Jin Kobayashi

School Rumble

12

Jin Kobayashi

TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED BY
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Honorifics Explained

In this manga book, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in our manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

Cultural Note

To preserve some of the humor found in *School Rumble*, we have elected to keep Japanese names in their original Japanese order—that is to say, with the family name first, followed by the personal name. So when you hear the name Tsukamoto Tenma, Tenma is just one member of the Tsukamoto family.

School
Rumble
12
Jenma & Yakumo

Mikoto

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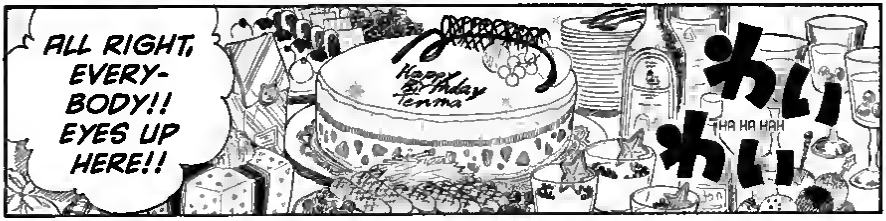


#141 | TELLING LIES IN AMERICA

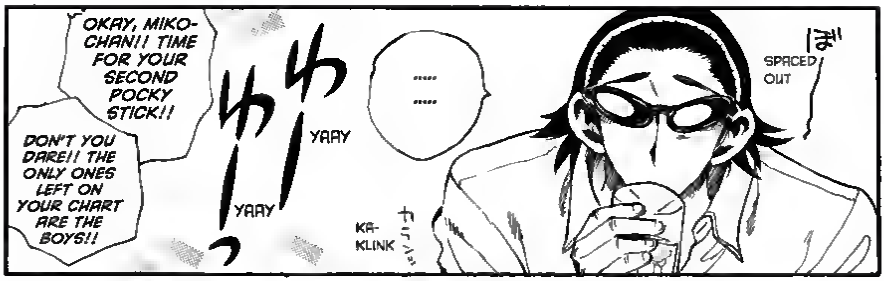
Tsukamoto Tenma: Turned 17 on Nov. 30. No Matter How Old She Looks.

YOU ARE ALLOWED TO GIVE EACH OF US ONE ORDER!!
AND SO, FOR ONE DAY, TENMA-CHAN IS THE QUEEN!!
FIRST WILL BE ERI-CHAN!!
EHH? YOU'RE SURE?! OKAY...
EHHH?!
NO! NO WAY!! IMPOSSIBLE!! NOT A CHANCE!!
YOU SHALL EAT NATTÔ!
GYAAA-HHH!!
NOW, NOW! ONE MUSTN'T BE PICKY WITH ONE'S FOODS.
NATTÔ IS GOOD FOR THE SKIN, RIGHT?
FILLED TO THE BRIM WITH NATTOKINASE ENZYMES!

Sagano: Gets an Exemption as Master of Ceremonies.

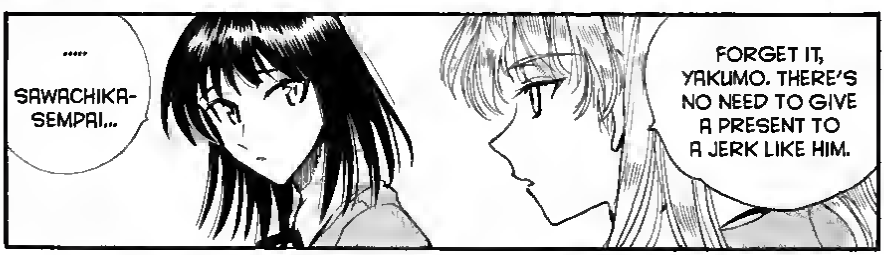
M-MY CURIOSITY IS INCREDIBLY PIQUED...
AKIRA-CHAN, THAT'S SO CUTE!!
KYAAA!!
?
TSUKAMOTO-SAN, IF YOU PLEASE...
AH! I CAN EAT ANYTHING!! AND I SHOW EMOTIONS LIKE NORMAL PEOPLE...
GLEEM
NOW, I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME WE TURNED TO MIKO-CHAN...
I'VE CREATED A LOTTERY CHART LEADING TO FOUR GUYS AND AKIRA-CHAN.
ARRGH!! WHY IS THIS HAPPENING TO ME?!
AND WHAT'S WITH THE FOUR GUYS?!
MIKO-CHAN, WHAT POSITION WILL YOU START AT?
NO!! NO WAY!! I WON'T DO IT!!
FOR MIKO-CHAN, OLDER AND WISER THAN I AM, SHE'LL PLAY THE POCKY GAME!!
HEY!! DON'T GO DECIDING FOR ME!!
おっ
OOHH!!
I AM REALLY NOT DOING THIS!!
OKAY, THEN I'LL CHOSE POSITION NO. 1 FOR YOU.

YOU LOSE!!
AWW!! IT BROKE!
THAT'S SO GOOD, IT'S SCARY!!
CRNCH
CRNCH
WHO-AAH!!
WHY WOULD I WANT THAT?!
TOO BAD!! IF YOU HAD CHOSEN POSITION TWO, YOU WOULD HAVE GOTTEN ASÔ-KUN! ♥
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
HAHH...I'M GLAD IT WAS AKIRA...
LET'S JUST TAKE THIS OFF YOU, YOUNG MISS!! ♥
COME ON! COME ON!
HM?
KARERIN... THIS IS YOUR ORDER!!
OH, REALLY... .....
THAT'S TENMA-CHAN FOR YOU!! A NEARLY PERFECT QUEEN!!
I'M NEVER WRONG ABOUT SUCH THINGS!!


OKAY, MIKO-CHAN!! TIME FOR YOUR SECOND POCKY STICK!!
DON'T YOU DARE!! THE ONLY ONES LEFT ON YOUR CHART ARE THE BOYS!!
YAAY
YAAY
.....
.....
KA-KLINK
SPACED OUT

YOUR BIRTHDAY...
I HEARD IT WAS ONLY A DAY DIFFER-ENT FROM NEE-SAN'S...
IF YOU DON'T MIND, I HAVE A PRESENT.

OH, LITTLE SISTER-SAN.
U-UM... HARIMA-SAN...


.....
SAWACHIKA-SEMPAI...
FORGET IT, YAKUMO. THERE'S NO NEED TO GIVE A PRESENT TO A JERK LIKE HIM.

.....
?
IT'S ALL RIGHT, LITTLE SISTER-SAN.

EH...
TENMA!! STOP RUN-NING ALL OVER THE PLACE!!
IT'S JUST THAT BEARD HAS ALREADY GOTTEN PLENTY FOR HIS BIRTHDAY.
I'M NOT TRYING TO INTERFERE OR ANY-THING...

YES...I WAS ABLE TO SEE THE SMILE ON TENMA-CHAN'S FACE. THAT'S PLENTY.
I'VE ALREADY RECEIVED PLENTY.
...TO GIVE HER THESE FLOWERS, AND WITH THEM, TELL HER HOW I FEEL...
ALL THAT'S LEFT...ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO WAIT UNTIL THE PARTY IS OVER...
SHIP
HOW... HOW I FEEL...
..... BUT...
...SEEMS A LITTLE SAD...
NEE-CHAN, TODAY...

IT'S TRUE...
AH...
KYA HA HA HA HA!!

HOWEVER, IN HIS HEART, HE KNEW THE ANSWER FROM THE START.
SO HARIMA GAVE THE IDEA A LITTLE THOUGHT.
"BUT IT'S HER BIRTH-DAY. WHY...?"

...THAT TENMA-CHAN IS...
IT'S BECAUSE THE JERK ISN'T HERE...

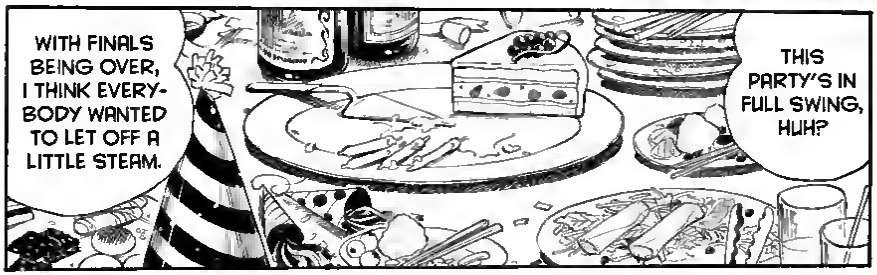
Café Mercado
HEY, ASÔ!! WHO SAID YOU COULD GO OFF AND HAVE A PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH SUÔ?!!
HE SAID THAT HE HAD SOMETHING TO GIVE YOU, AND HE WANTED YOU TO COME TO THE BACK OF THE RESTAURANT.
WHAT IS IT, SUGA-KUN?
HEY, TSUKAMOTO!!
HARIMA WANTED ME TO ASK YOU...
!!
HARIMA HAD DOUBTS. SHOULD HE REALLY GIVE THIS TO HER?
HYUUU
.....
.....
TAK
TAK
SUGA SAID YOU WANTED TO GIVE SOMETHING TO ME?
O-OH! TEN— TSUKAMOTO!!
THAT WAS QUICK!
GAK!
HEY!! HARIMA-KUN!!
I TOLD HIM HE SHOULD GIVE THEM TO YOU HIMSELF, BUT...
HA HA HA...
H-HE WANTED ME TO GIVE THESE TO YOU!!
おさ
CHE
TH-THAT'S RIGHT!! K-KARASUMA WANTED...
U-UM... U-UH...
PANIC
PANIC

Karasuma Is Spelled with the Kanji for "Raven," Not "Bird."

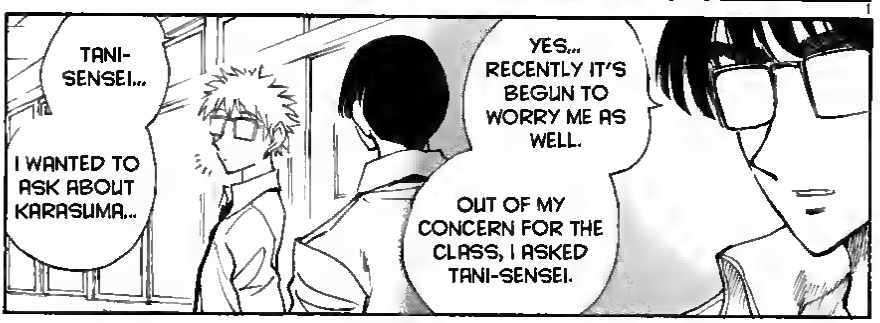
HUMPH!!
I'M SORRY. I WROTE IT.
HARIMA-KUN...
?!
SHF
W-WE AREN'T SNEAK-ING!!
GRABB
HEY!! WHAT ARE YOU TWO SNEAKING OUT HERE FOR?!
S-SURE...
THANK YOU!!
HARIMA, RECALLING TENMA'S SMILE AND FINAL "THANK YOU," LIES AWAKE ALL NIGHT.
"I WONDER IF I WAS ABLE TO CHEER HER UP EVEN A LITTLE BIT...?"

As the Eve of a 17th Birthday Grows Old...

141 · · · · · · · · · Fin



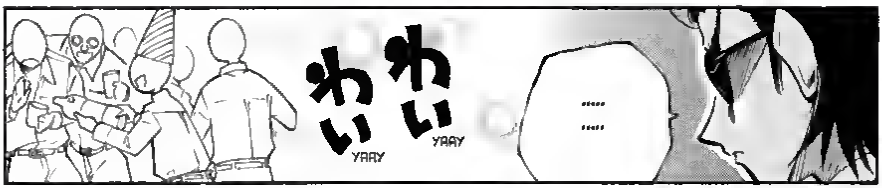
COME TO THINK OF IT, WHERE WAS KARASUMA?
CHOMP
CHOMP
HE DIDN'T SHOW UP FOR THE TESTS, EITHER.
DOESN'T THAT MEAN HE WON'T BE MOVED UP TO THE NEXT GRADE?
I'M NOT ONE TO TALK, BUT...

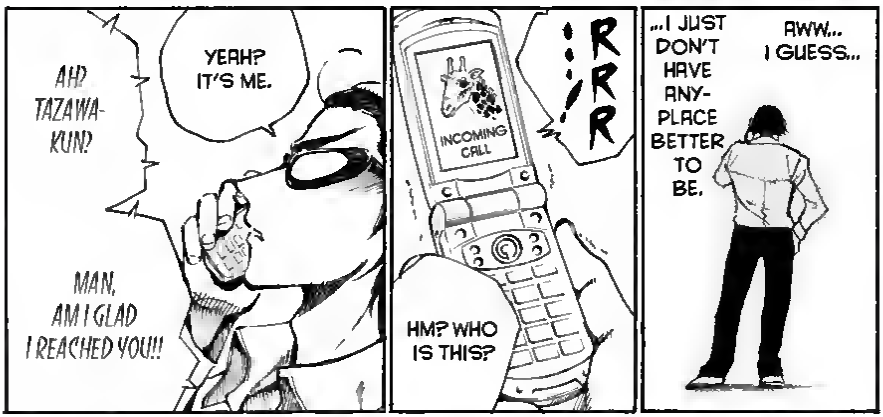

TANI-SENSEI...
I WANTED TO ASK ABOUT KARASUMA...
YES... RECENTLY IT'S BEGUN TO WORRY ME AS WELL.
OUT OF MY CONCERN FOR THE CLASS, I ASKED TANI-SENSEI.

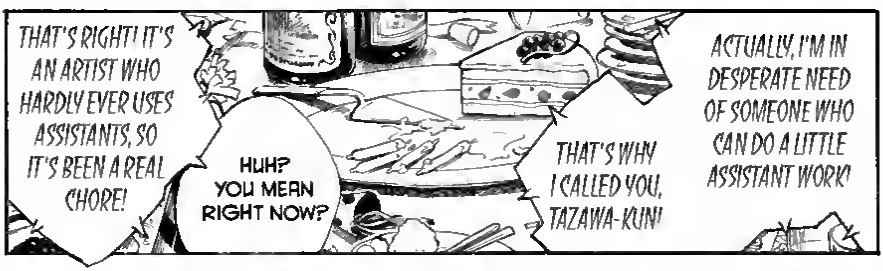
#142 MONKEY BUSINESS

OH, YEAH...
I THOUGHT I HAD ALREADY TOLD EVERY-BODY...
WE HAVE FINALS THIS MONTH, AND HE HASN'T SHOWN UP ALL WEEK...
KARASUMA HAS BEEN TAKING EVERY DAY OFF, HASN'T HE?
YES. I WAS CONCERNED ABOUT OUR CLASS'S ADVANCEMENT RATE.
BUT IT SEEMS THERE WAS A REASON FOR HIS ABSENCES.
THAT'S RIGHT!!
THE GUY ALWAYS SEEMS TO BE MISSING, HUH?
2 - C
WHY WOULD HE DO THAT?!
AMERICA?!
APPARENTLY HE'S GONE TO AMERICA.
OH...
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN IT'S OKAY...
I HAD A CONFERENCE WITH HIM AND HIS PARENTS.
THEY SAID THAT THEY'D FIGURE OUT A WAY FOR HIM TO MAKE UP HIS CLASSWORK.

I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING BEYOND THAT.
THE GUY IS AS FULL OF MYSTERIES AS ALWAYS.
YOU SAY HE GOES TO AMERICA EVERY MONTH?!
WHAT'S THE REASON FOR THAT?!
PROBABLY. BUT THIS IS HIS PERSONAL BUSINESS. LET'S KEEP IT QUIET, HUH?
SO BACK WHEN HE STARTED TALKING ABOUT TRANSFERRING, THIS WAS WHAT HE MEANT?
BUT...
THAT'S GOT TO BE A LITTLE SAD.
A BIRTHDAY PARTY WHERE THE GUY YOU LIKE DOESN'T SHOW UP...
LISTEN...
TSUKAMOTO-SAN REALLY LIKES KARASUMA-KUN, DOESN'T SHE?
MM... I GUESS ONLY TENMA-CHAN KNOWS WHAT SHE SEES IN HIM.
I CAN SEE HOW A PERSON MIGHT CALL HIM COOL, BUT...
...HE'S PRETTY WEIRD, HUH?
SAY.. MEGUMI?

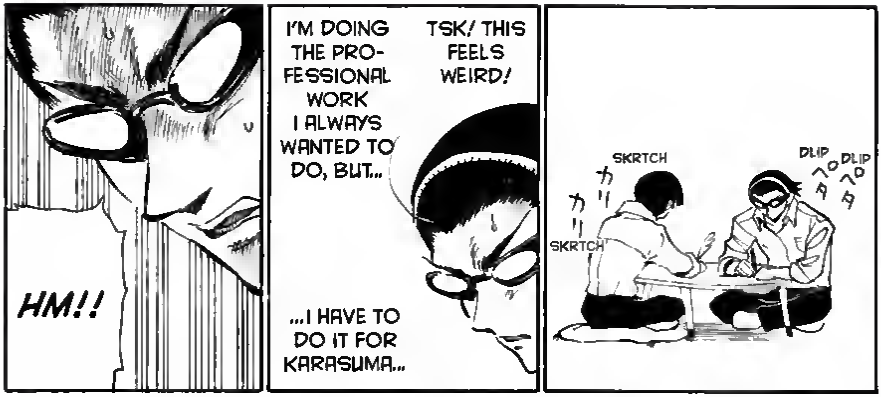

わいわい
YAAY
YAAY
.....
.....

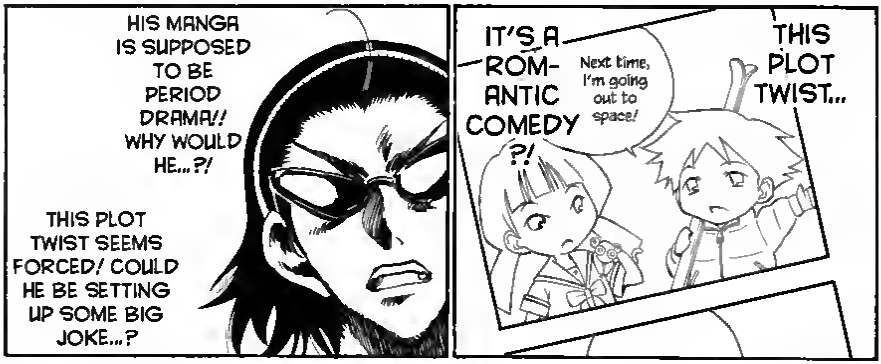

AH? TAZAWA-KUN?
YEAH? IT'S ME.
MAN, AM I GLAD I REACHED YOU!!!
INCOMING CALL
RRR!
HM? WHO IS THIS?
...I JUST DON'T HAVE ANY-PLACE BETTER TO BE.
AWW... I GUESS...

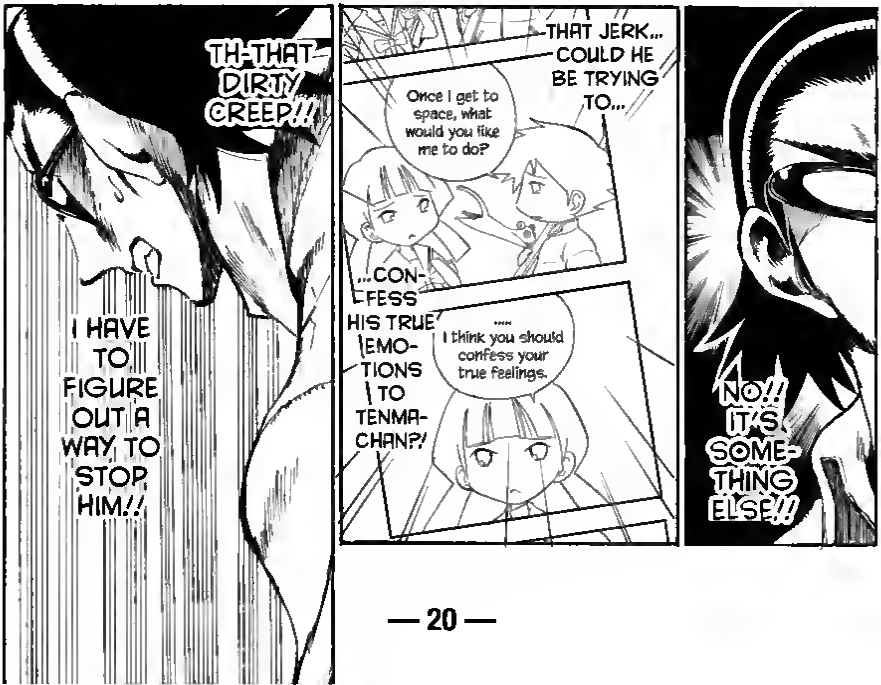

THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S AN ARTIST WHO HARDLY EVER USES ASSISTANTS, SO IT'S BEEN A REAL CHORE!
HUH? YOU MEAN RIGHT NOW?
THAT'S WHY I CALLED YOU, TAZAWA-KUN!
ACTUALLY, I'M IN DESPERATE NEED OF SOMEONE WHO CAN DO A LITTLE ASSISTANT WORK!

9:00 P.M. DANKÔSHA OFFICES...
I HAVE TO SAY THE TIMING IS PERFECT. BUT WHAT'S SUCH A PROBLEM AS TO NEED THE EMERGENCY CALL?
ALL RIGHT!!
THEN COULD YOU COME TO THE OFFICES RIGHT AWAY?
.....
THAT'S OKAY. I'LL DO IT.
I'M JUST KILLING TIME RIGHT NOW ANYWAY.

YO. I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, HARIMA-KUN.
DANKÔSHA, 26TH FLOOR. IN THE AMERICA ROOM.
.....?!
THEN I'LL LEAVE YOU TWO TO IT.
FEEL FREE TO DRIVE HIM LIKE A SLAVE
YOU JERK!!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING HERE?! IT'S TSUKA-MOTO'S...
DMP
K-KARA-SUMA... NO, I MEAN...
NIJÔ JÔ!!
KH... N-NO... IT'S JUST...
TH-THEN I'LL GET RIGHT TO WORK, HUH?
.....
YES. THAT WILL HELP A LOT.


HM!!
I'M DOING THE PROFESSIONAL WORK I ALWAYS WANTED TO DO, BUT...
...I HAVE TO DO IT FOR KARASUMA...
TSK/ THIS FEELS WEIRD!
SKRTCH
SKRTCH
DLIP
DLIP

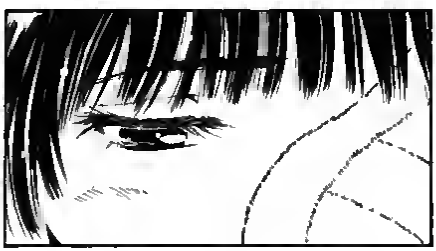

HIS MANGA IS SUPPOSED TO BE PERIOD DRAMA!! WHY WOULD HE...?!
THIS PLOT TWIST SEEMS FORCED/ COULD HE BE SETTING UP SOME BIG JOKE...?
IT'S A ROMANTIC COMEDY ?!
Next time, I'm going out to space!
THIS PLOT TWIST...

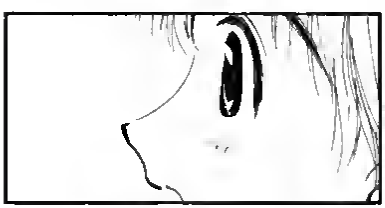

TH-THAT DIRTY CREEP!!
I HAVE TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO STOP HIM!!
...CONFESS HIS TRUE EMOTIONS TO TENMA-CHAN?!
Once I get to space, what would you like me to do?
I think you should confess your true feelings.
THAT JERK... COULD HE BE TRYING TO...
NO!! IT'S SOMETHING ELSE!!

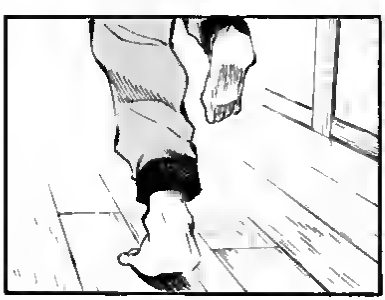
ぽりたっ
DLIPP
B-BUT WHAT SHOULD I DO?!
7
DAMMIT! WHAT'S HE GOING TO SAY ABOUT THIS?!
.....
U-UH... HEY...
O-OHHHH NOOOOO!!
HEHN
(AS SEEN THROUGH HARIMA'S EYES)
ARRGH!! HE SMILED!! I KNOW HE SMILED!! HE WON'T GET AWAY WITH THAT, DAMMIT!!
?
WHAT HAVE I DONE TO THE ORIGINAL MANGA ARTWORK?!
I KNEW IT!! HE'S MAKING A FOOL OF ME!! IF THAT'S HOW IT IS...

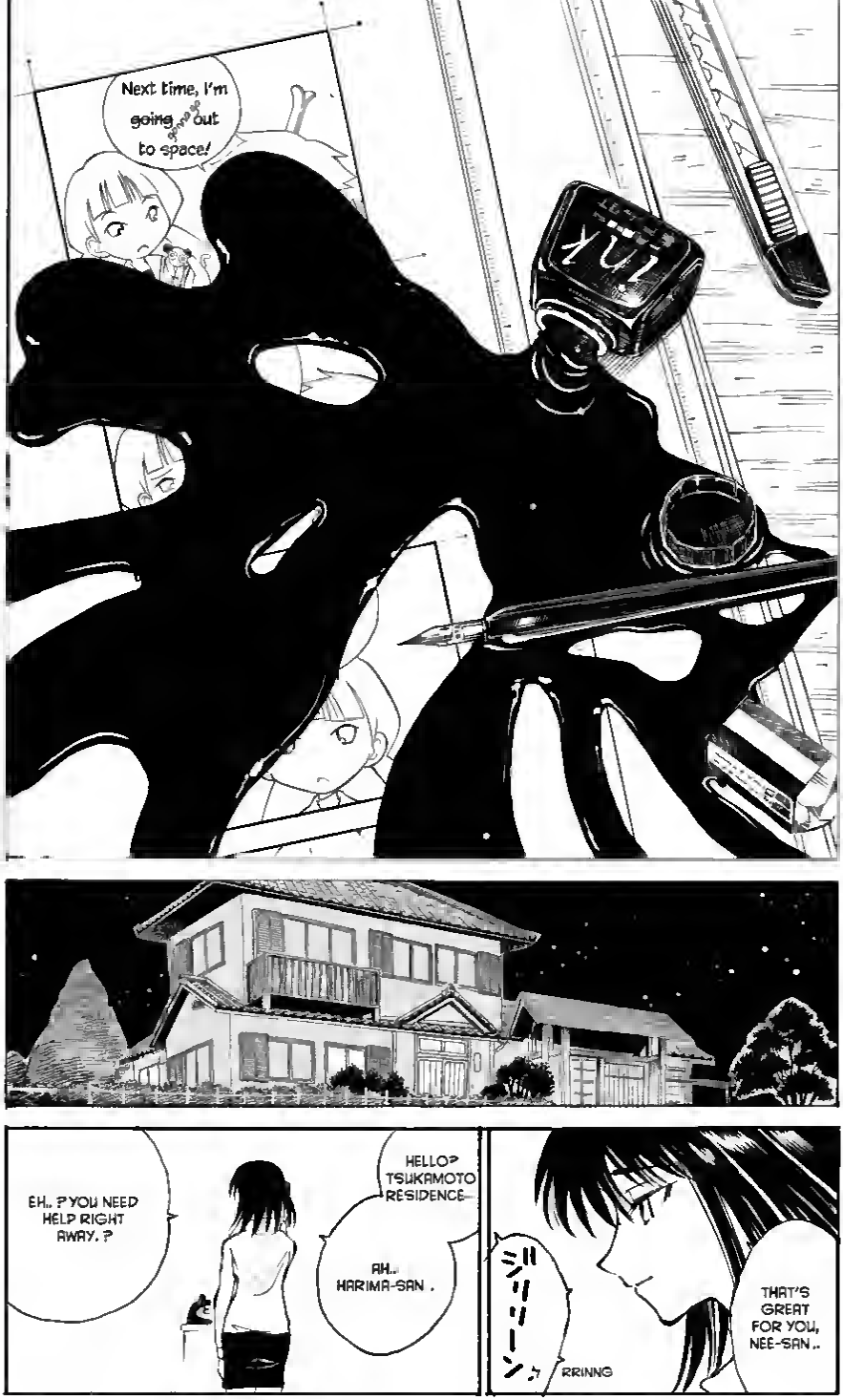
Next time, I'm going gonna go out to space!
SKRTCH
SKRTCH
GOOD!! AN EXCELLENT RECOVERY, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF.
WAIT A SECOND... IT'S STRANGE IF THIS IS THE ONLY PANEL WHERE HE WEARS SUNGLASSES.
GO WISH HER A HAPPY BIRTHDAY. AS A CLASS-MATE, OF COURSE.
I DON'T THINK ANYBODY WOULD BE PUT OUT IF ONE MORE PERSON SHOWED UP.
YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE HEARD, BUT EVERYONE'S THERE.
THEY'RE HAVING A BIRTH-DAY PARTY FOR TSUKAMOTO TODAY AT MERCADO.
I MEAN NIJÔ JÔ...
BY THE WAY, KARASU...

チャ…
CHIK
HUH? NIJÔ-SENSEI...
DMP
カリ
カリチャ…
KACHAK
SKRTCH
YEAH...
カリ
SKRTCH
TAZAWA-KUN JUST LEFT. IS EVERYTHING OKAY?
.....
YEAH...
KACHIK
カリ
REALLY? OKAY, BUT I NEED THAT MANGA FINISHED TONIGHT, PLEASE!
BUT... I WON'T GO HOME WITHOUT PUTTING UP A FIGHT!! I'M GOING TO REWRITE HIS HERO COMPLETELY!! TAKE THAT, KARASUMA!!
SHLIP
カキ
カキ
SHLIP
HA... I ALLOWED MY ENEMY AN ADVANTAGE. I'M STILL QUITE NAIVE, AREN'T I?



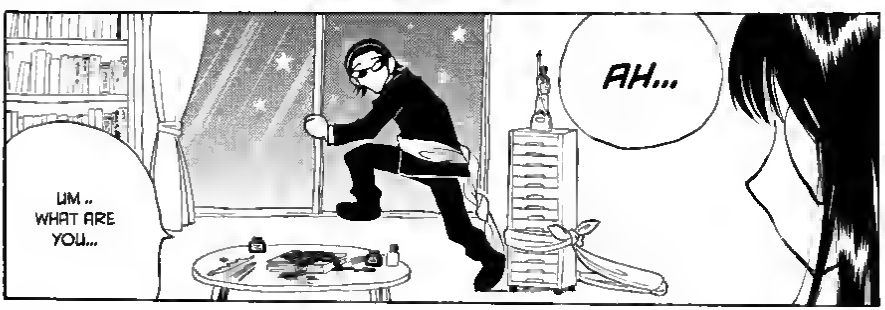






Meanwhile, What's Going on at the Office?!

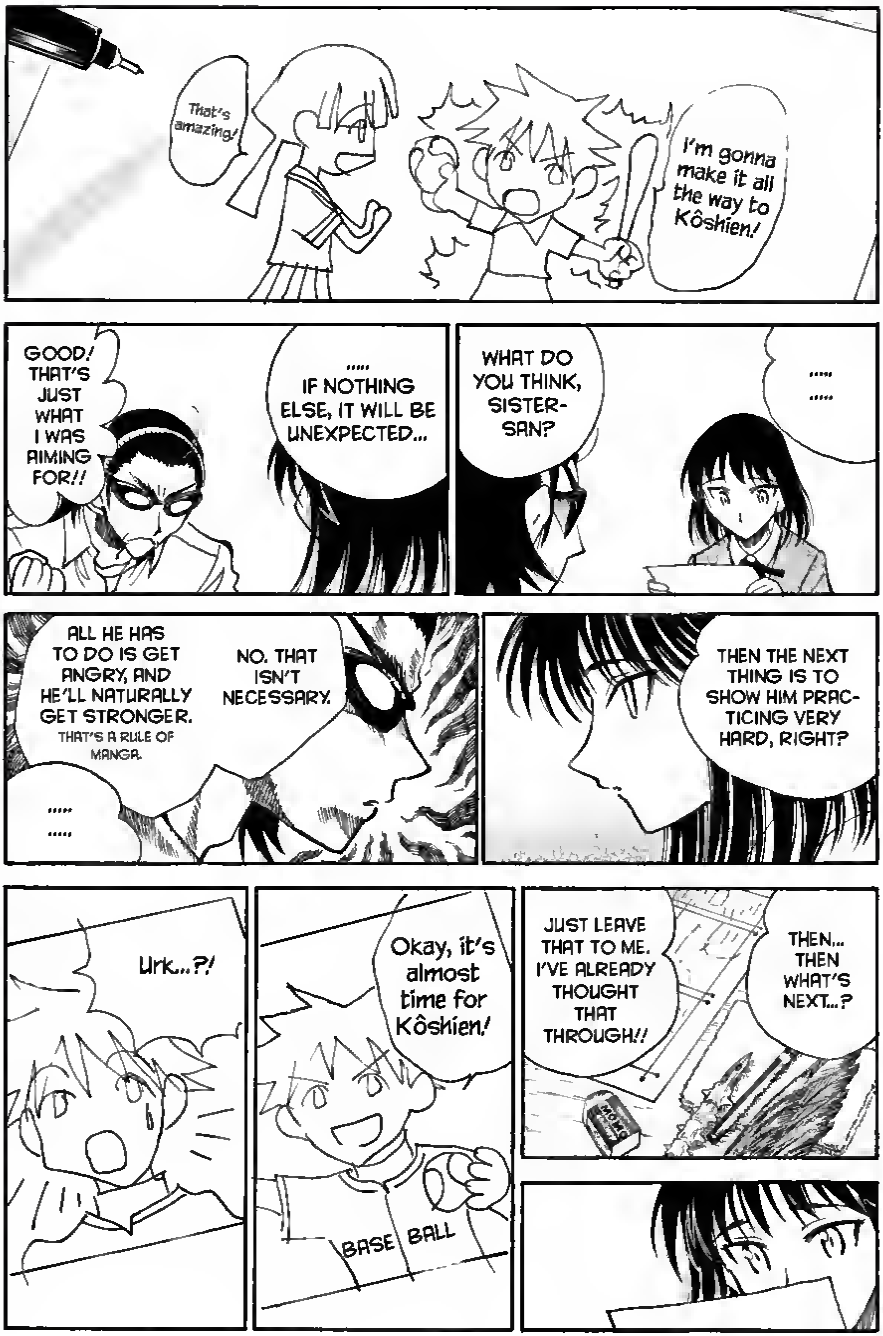
142 · · · · · · · · · Fin



SO YOU SPILLED SOME INK?
AND YOU FIGURED THAT THE ONLY THING YOU COULD DO WAS TO TRY TO ESCAPE, SO YOU TIED UP THE CURTAINS AND MADE YOUR WAY OUT THE WINDOW...
BUT THEN YOU REALIZED YOU WERE ON THE 26TH FLOOR, AND YOU WERE SUDDENLY AT A LOSS AS TO WHAT TO DO.. DOES THAT SUM IT UP, ?

143 SOUL OF A PAINTER

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING LEFT TO DO...
I HAVE TO COME UP WITH SOME-THING ON MY OWN!!
DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT THE STORY WAS ABOUT?
NO...I'M DRAWING A COMPLETE BLANK!
I DON'T HAVE THE NAME, AND I CAN'T ASK THE EDITOR ABOUT IT...
NAME A ROUGH SKETCH OF A MANGA INCLUDING DIALOGUE.
I KNOW I DON'T LOOK IT, BUT I'M A PRO WHERE THINGS LIKE THIS ARE CONCERNED.
I AM A NEW ARTIST'S AWARD-WINNER, AFTER ALL!
THAT'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT, SISTER-SAN.
B-BUT...
HOW DID THIS ALL HAPPEN...?
NO!! THAT'S OUT OF THE QUES-TION!!
THEN TO CON-TINUE THE ROMAN-TIC COMEDY, WE SHOULD HAVE THE CHARACTERS GET MORE INTIMATE...
KÔSHIEN !!
Y-YOU SEE, IF WE DO ANYTHING UNEXPECTED, THEY'LL KNOW THEY'RE JUST LOOK-ALIKES!
MAYBE WHAT WE SHOULD DO HERE IS...
EH...
I HAVE TO PUT A DECISIVE STOP TO KARASUMA'S PLOT TO CONFESS HIS FEELINGS!


That's amazing!
I'm gonna make it all the way to Kôshien!
GOOD! THAT'S JUST WHAT I WAS AIMING FOR!!
..... IF NOTHING ELSE, IT WILL BE UNEXPECTED...
WHAT DO YOU THINK, SISTER-SAN?
.....
.....
ALL HE HAS TO DO IS GET ANGRY, AND HE'LL NATURALLY GET STRONGER.
THAT'S A RULE OF MANGA.
NO. THAT ISN'T NECESSARY.
.....
.....
THEN THE NEXT THING IS TO SHOW HIM PRACTICING VERY HARD, RIGHT?
Urk...?!
Okay, it's almost time for Kôshien!
BASE BALL
JUST LEAVE THAT TO ME. I'VE ALREADY THOUGHT THAT THROUGH!!
THEN... THEN WHAT'S NEXT...?

DOOOM
They ambushed us...
What happened here...?!
Oww...

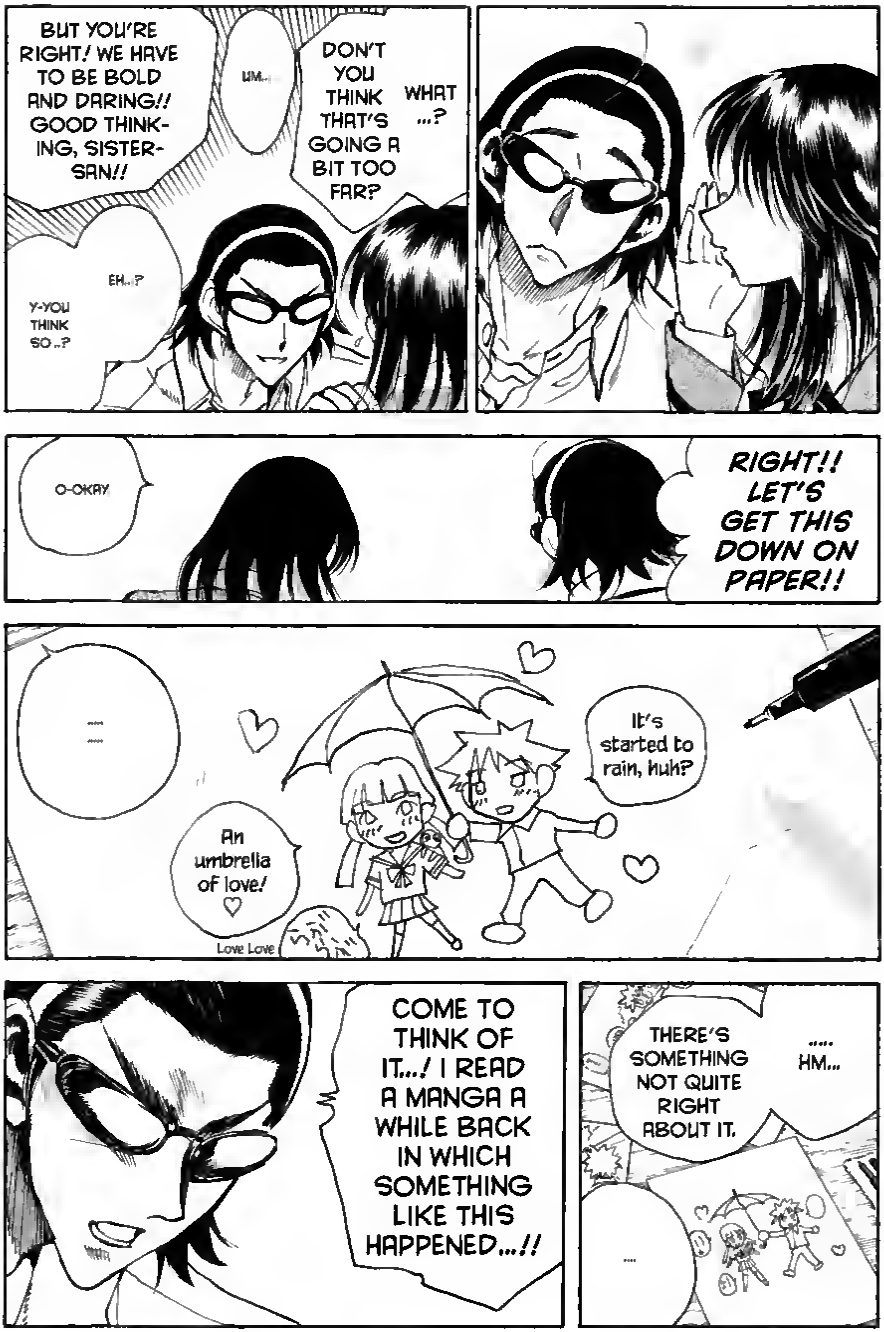
THAT IS THE ROYAL ROAD TO SHÔNEN MANGA!!
NEXT WE HAVE THE BATTLE!!
GWOOSH
EH... WHAT...

YEAH. BUT WE CAN CALL IT AN AURA INSTEAD, HUH?
CHI...?
NOW THE PITCHER BUILDS UP HIS CHI...

UM...
KÔSHIEN IS A TOURNA-MENT, SO IT'S PERFECT!!
ANY TIME A WEEKLY MANGA MAGAZINE IS IN TROUBLE, IT ALWAYS RESORTS TO A TOURNAMENT!!

...AND USE THEM TO DESTROY THE WORLD!
HE'S TRYING TO MANIPU-LATE THE NINE MEMBERS OF THE WINNING TEAM...
BY THE WAY, TO LET A SECRET OUT...
...THE UMPIRE IS THE KING OF DEMONS.
THAT'S A SURPRISE, HUH?
O...KAY...

WELL, OF COURSE THE NEXT THING IS...
.....
WHAT'S SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN NEXT?
UHH... I DUNNO.
WANT TO DESTROY IT?
UM... WHY DOES HE...
WHAT DO YOU THINK, SISTER-SAN?
WE HAVE TO HAVE A LOVE SCENE...
I THINK...
I'M NOT VERY GOOD AT THAT KIND OF THING, BUT IT SURE BRINGS IN THE READERS.
EH...?
.....
HUH...
I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DRAW...
THEN... HOW ABOUT...
OH!! YOU'VE GOT AN IDEA?!
.....
.....
SISTER-SAN, DO YOU HAVE ANY GOOD IDEAS?
EH...?!
UH...


BUT YOU'RE RIGHT! WE HAVE TO BE BOLD AND DARING!! GOOD THINKING, SISTER-SAN!!
UM...
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S GOING A BIT TOO FAR?
WHAT ...?
EH...?
Y-YOU THINK SO..?
O-OKAY
RIGHT!! LET'S GET THIS DOWN ON PAPER!!
...
...
An umbrella of love! ♡
It's started to rain, huh?
Love Love
COME TO THINK OF IT...! I READ A MANGA A WHILE BACK IN WHICH SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPENED...!!
THERE'S SOMETHING NOT QUITE RIGHT ABOUT IT.
..... HM...
...

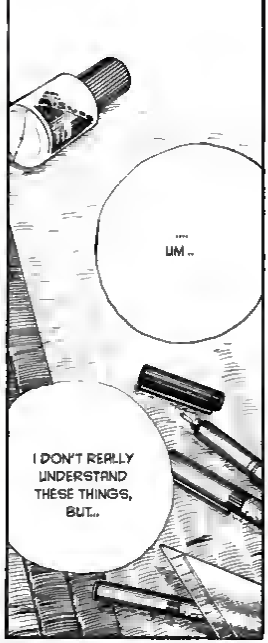
This Is Extreme for Yakumo.

UH-HUH.
THE MAIN CHARACTER INADVERTENTLY STUMBLES AND FALLS...
...AND FOR SOME REASON, HE PUSHES THE GIRL OVER, TOO!
YES! I THINK IT COULD WORK!!
B-BUT ARE YOU SURE IT'S OKAY..?
WHUMP
AH!
IT LOOKED A LITTLE LIKE THIS.
AND TO THAT PURPOSE...
OKAY..
HM...WELL, LET'S TRY IT. IF WE FIND THE RIGHT COMPOSITION, IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT!!
O-OKAY
ALL RIGHT!! YOU'RE A REAL LIFE-SAVER!!
UM...
COULD YOU MODEL THIS WITH ME, SISTER-SAN?

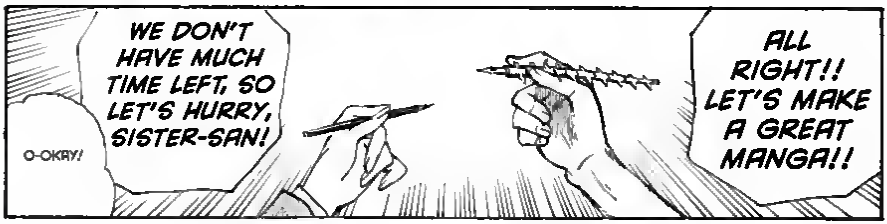
He's Below...?
...UH...
UM...
I THINK THIS WAS THE POSITION THAT I SAW...
NOW, SISTER-SAN...
...FALL IN A POSI-TION OVER ME!!
O-OKAY
IS THAT THE WAY TO DO IT...?
"AH!"
AH!
FIRST YOU SAY "AH!" AND THEN YOU FALL
LIKE THIS...?
WHUMP!
...
....

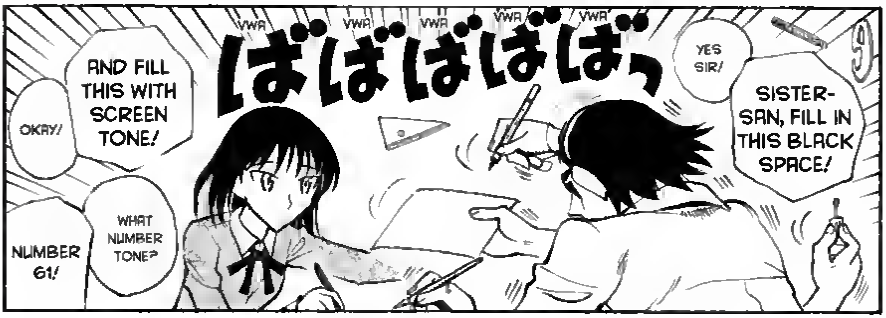
B-BMP
トクン
B-BMP
トクン
B-BMP
トクン
.....
.....
TWITCH
ビク
"I LOVE YOU..."
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
SOME-THING'S JUST NOT RIGHT ABOUT IT!!
HMM...
SISTER-SAN...

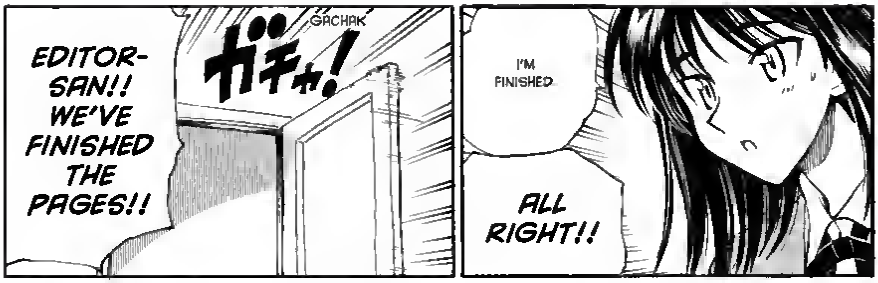
DO YOU REALLY THINK .
DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT ROMANCES START OUT LIKE THIS?


.... UM ..
I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND THESE THINGS, BUT..

IT'S WRONG TO KEEP BORROWING IDEAS FROM OTHER PEOPLE.
YES..
YOU'RE RIGHT. SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT. I GUESS THE ONLY THING IS TO DRAW WHAT I ACTUALLY KNOW.
むくっ DWIP


WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT, SO LET'S HURRY, SISTER-SAN!
O-OKAY!
ALL RIGHT!! LET'S MAKE A GREAT MANGA!!


ばばばばばっ
VWA VWA VWA VWA VWA
AND FILL THIS WITH SCREEN TONE!
OKAY!
WHAT NUMBER TONE?
NUMBER 61!
YES SIR!
SISTER-SAN, FILL IN THIS BLACK SPACE!


EDITOR-SAN!! WE'VE FINISHED THE PAGES!!
ガチャ!
GACHAK
I'M FINISHED
ALL RIGHT!!

AH...
HUH? WHERE'S NIJÔ-SENSEI'S MANGA?

DID KARASUMA GET TO TSUKAMOTO'S BIRTHDAY PARTY?
..... COME TO THINK OF IT, SISTER-SAN...
EH..? AH—YES. HE ARRIVED AFTER THE PARTY, AND CAME DIRECTLY TO OUR HOUSE.
BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?
THEN I COMPLETELY FORGOT WHAT I INTENDED TO DO!
NO, IT ISN'T YOUR FAULT!
I'M TO BLAME FOR SPILLING THE INK!
I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY!

HE DID, HUH...?
EH?!
NO!
I MEAN, AFTER YOU HELPED ME OUT SO MUCH...!!
UM... H-HARIMA-SAN...
I WANTED TO GIVE IT TO YOU EARLIER, BUT..
IF YOU DON'T MIND, I HAVE A PRESENT FOR YOU.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HARIMA-SAN...
THANK YOU SISTER-SAN
AH, WHAT THE HECK. LET'S GO AHEAD AND RUN IT.
.....

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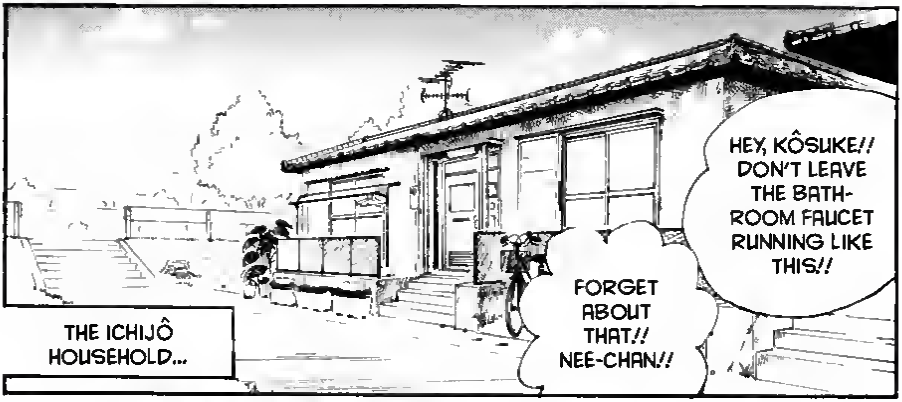
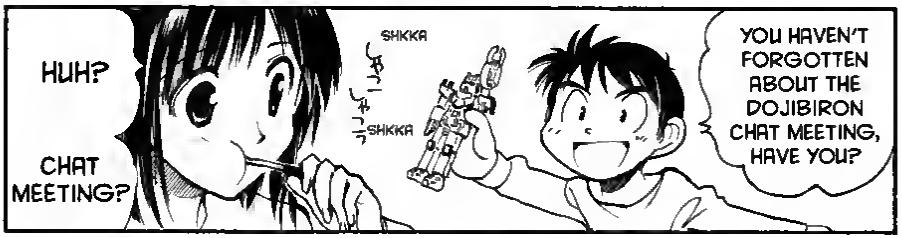
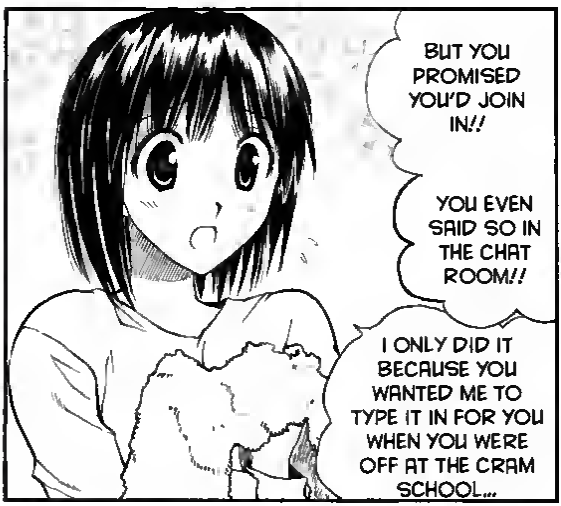
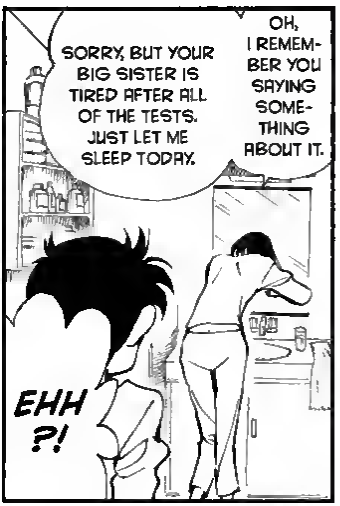
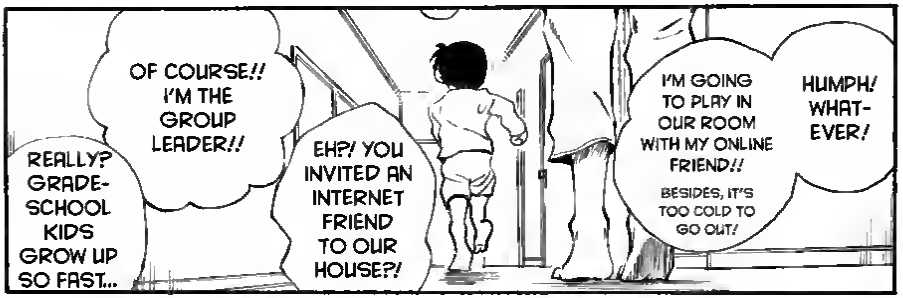

THE ICHIJÔ HOUSEHOLD...
FORGET ABOUT THAT!! NEE-CHAN!!
HEY, KÔSUKE!! DON'T LEAVE THE BATHROOM FAUCET RUNNING LIKE THIS!!


HUH?
CHAT MEETING?
SHKKA
SHKKA
YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE DOJIBIRON CHAT MEETING, HAVE YOU?

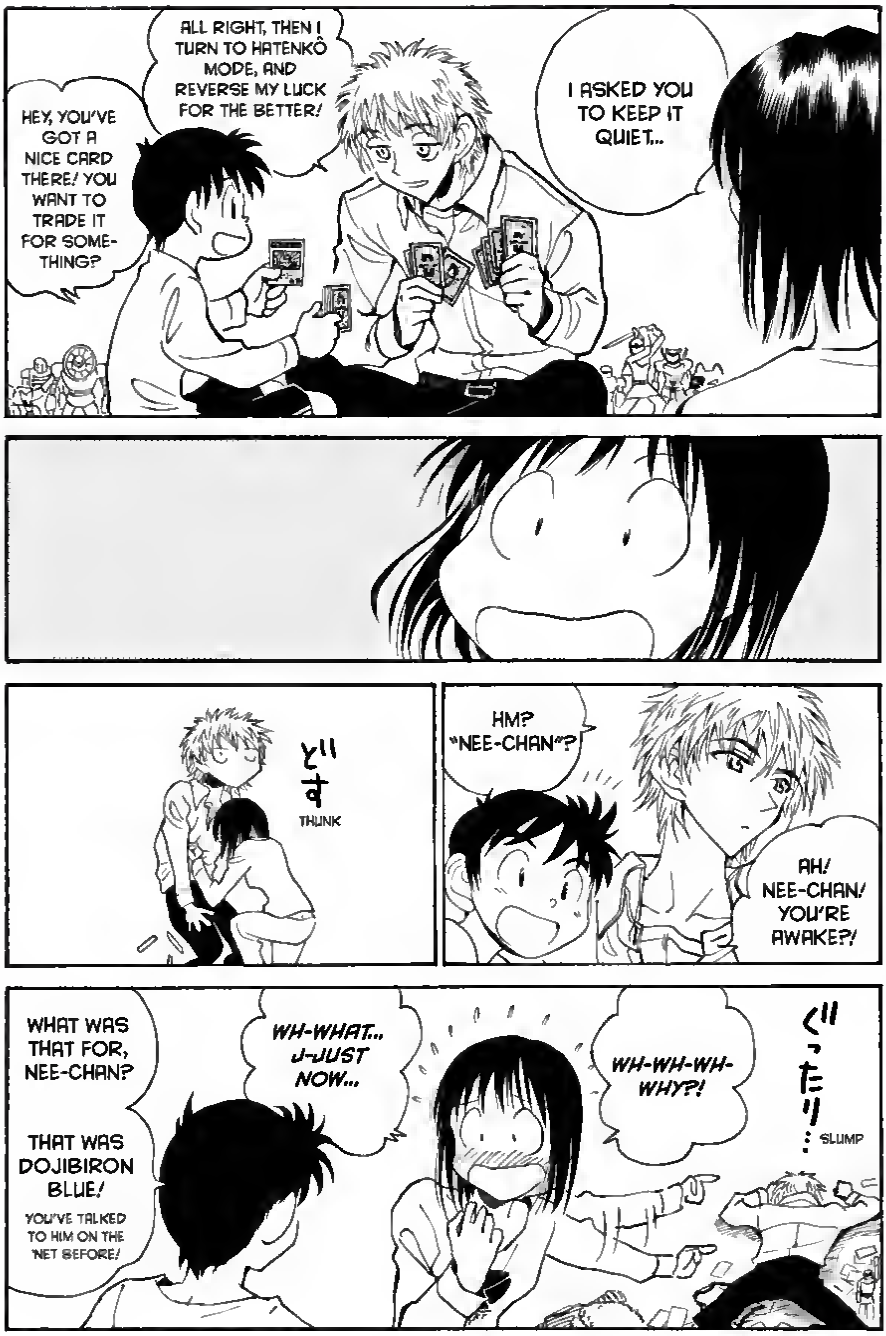

BUT YOU PROMISED YOU'D JOIN IN!!
YOU EVEN SAID SO IN THE CHAT ROOM!!
I ONLY DID IT BECAUSE YOU WANTED ME TO TYPE IT IN FOR YOU WHEN YOU WERE OFF AT THE CRAM SCHOOL...


SORRY, BUT YOUR BIG SISTER IS TIRED AFTER ALL OF THE TESTS. JUST LET ME SLEEP TODAY.
OH, I REMEMBER YOU SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT IT.
EHH?!


REALLY? GRADE-SCHOOL KIDS GROW UP SO FAST...
OF COURSE!! I'M THE GROUP LEADER!!
EH?! YOU INVITED AN INTERNET FRIEND TO OUR HOUSE?!
I'M GOING TO PLAY IN OUR ROOM WITH MY ONLINE FRIEND!!
BESIDES, IT'S TOO COLD TO GO OUT!
HUMPH! WHATEVER!

HOW OLD DO YOU THINK HE IS?
THAT'S RIGHT. YOU AND HE ARE PRETTY TIGHT, HUH?
HE ALWAYS WRITES IN HIRAGANA, SO HE'S PROBABLY YOUNGER THAN ME.
HEY!! YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE GUY WHO ALWAYS WRITES AS DOJIBIRON BLUE!!
WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF IT TURNED OUT TO BE SOME WEIRDO?
BUT YOU SHOULDN'T INVITE PEOPLE YOU ONLY KNOW FROM THE 'NET OVER TO THE HOUSE.
YES MA'AM!
SHMM
OKAY, THEN I'M GOING TO GET SOME MORE SLEEP.
YEAH, YEAH! SURE.
HM. WELL, I HOPE SO. ANYWAY, PLAY QUIETLY!
ZZZ
ZZZ

IMADORI-SAN...
ICHI-SAN... NO, KAREN!
IT SEEMS THAT I'VE FALLEN FOR YOUR CHARMS.
UM... IMADORI-SAN...
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT ME TO BE YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?
HEY, BLUE! YOU LOST!
WAIT! I WANT A DO-OVER!
IT WAS A PRETTY NICE DREAM! ♡
BUT...
HEH HEH!
WHAT KIND OF DREAMS AM I HAVING?!
HUH? A DREAM?!
ぽろっ
POP
HEY, KÔSUKE !!
SHAKK
YOU GUYS ARE PRETTY NOISY OUT THERE!!

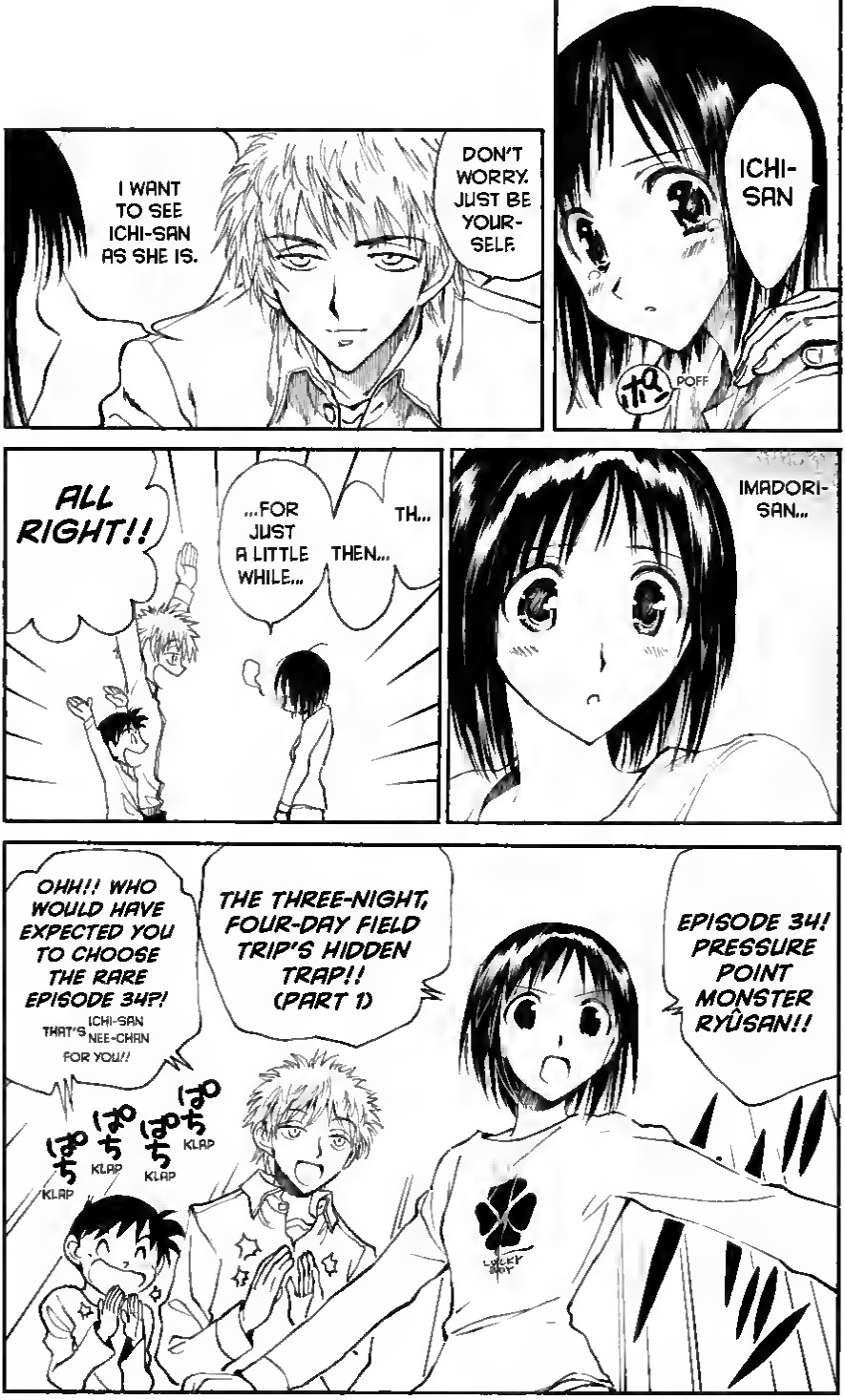

HEY, YOU'VE GOT A NICE CARD THERE! YOU WANT TO TRADE IT FOR SOMETHING?
ALL RIGHT, THEN I TURN TO HATENKÔ MODE, AND REVERSE MY LUCK FOR THE BETTER!
I ASKED YOU TO KEEP IT QUIET...
とす
THUNK
HM? "NEE-CHAN"?
AH! NEE-CHAN! YOU'RE AWAKE?!
WHAT WAS THAT FOR, NEE-CHAN?
THAT WAS DOJIBIRON BLUE!
YOU'VE TALKED TO HIM ON THE 'NET BEFORE!
WH-WHAT... J-JUST NOW...
WH-WH-WH-WHY?!
くったり…
SLUMP

THAT WAS IMADORI-SAN?!
BUT YOU SAID HE WAS YOUNGER THAN YOU!
EHH?!
WHY ELSE?! HE'S IN MY CLASS!!
WHY DO YOU KNOW HIS REAL NAME?
I DON'T GET IT.
LIKE WHAT?
WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS...
EH?
BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY...
.....
.....
YOU'RE KIDDING!! A FUN GUY LIKE HIM?!
YOU'RE LUCKY, NEE-CHAN!
I DON'T CARE WHAT!! WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS!!

AW, WHO CARES ABOUT A FEW DIRTY THINGS?!
NEVER MIND! JUST HELP OUT!!
わーっ
WAAAH!
LOOK AT THE DIRTY CLOTHES ALL OVER THE PLACE!!
わっ
FWAFF
AND PUT THEM AWAY!!
TSK!
HURRY UP AND FOLD THEM!!
UM...
IN THE BOTTOM DRAWER OF THE DRESSER...
ICHI-SAN, WHERE DOES THIS GO?
HUH? I NEVER KNEW YOUR MOTHER HAD SUCH A NICE BODY!
THAT'S MY MOTHER'S !!
BUT I WANTED TO ASK, WHY IS IT SUCH A LARGE SIZE?
わーん
WAAHH!!
どんっ!
WHAMM
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, IMADORI-SAN!!
NOTHING. I JUST THOUGHT THAT I WOULD HELP OUT.

See? If You Don't Act Quickly...

QUIT OVER-PLAYING IT!! THEY'RE ONLY 5 KG EACH!!
ICHI-SAN, AREN'T THESE DUMBBELLS WAY TOO HEAVY?
NNNG! NNNG!
KYAA!! G-GIVE THEM BACK!!
I FOUND A PAIR OF ICHI-SAN'S PAJAMAS!
HEY!
EYAAAA !!!
40
HM? YOU'RE AIMING TO SLIM DOWN TO 40 KG?
YOU'RE CLOSE!! IF YOU GO ON A DIET, YOU CAN REACH IT!!
OHH! ICHI-SAN IN PINK! SOUNDS HARD TO BEAT!
YOU'LL BE DOJIBIRON PINK LIKE YOU ALWAYS ARE!!
HERE'S YOUR MASK!
NEE-CHAN!! LET'S PLAY DOJIBIRON TAG!!
NO MORE!! I QUIT!!
OH, HO! ICHI-SAN CALLED ME ROTTEN!
♪
COME ON!! DON'T LOOK AT THAT!! THIS IS REALLY ROTTEN OF YOU, IMADORI-SAN!!
WHAP
ぽか
WHAP
ぽか


ICHI-SAN
POFF
DON'T WORRY. JUST BE YOURSELF.
I WANT TO SEE ICHI-SAN AS SHE IS.
IMADORI-SAN...
TH... THEN...
...FOR JUST A LITTLE WHILE...
ALL RIGHT!!
EPISODE 34! PRESSURE POINT MONSTER RYÛSAN!!
THE THREE-NIGHT, FOUR-DAY FIELD TRIP'S HIDDEN TRAP!! (PART 1)
OHH!! WHO WOULD HAVE EXPECTED YOU TO CHOOSE THE RARE EPISODE 34?!
THAT'S ICHI-SAN NEE-CHAN FOR YOU!!
ぱち KLAP
ぱち KLAP
ぱち KLAP
ぱち KLAP

IMADORI-SAN, YOU HAVE TO TAKE THE ENEMY ON!!
DAMMIT! PRESSURE POINTS ALL OVER HIS BODY HAVE BEEN PRESSED!! IT'S LIKE HE IS LEFT BONELESS!!
SHAKKA
SHAKKA
HANG IN THERE, TEAM MEMBER KÔSUKE!!
OHH!! THIS IS WHERE RYÛSAN BREAKS THROUGH THE WALL!!
YOU'VE GOT THE SPIRIT, DOJIBIRON BLUE!!
HAH! HAH! HAH! HAH! EVIL CREATURE!! IT'S YOUR TURN NEXT!!
TAKE THIS!! HATENKÔ HAMMER!!
WHAT'LL WE DO, MEMBER KAREN?!
GACHING
GOOOO!! WAY TO BE, DOJIBIRON!!

B-BUT IF YOU TELL ME YOU'RE COMING BEFOREHAND...
...I CAN HAVE THE PLACE READY FOR YOU.
I'M SORRY FOR ALL THE CONFUSION TODAY.
YOU'D BETTER COME BACK, BLUE!!
HEY, KÔSUKE!! SAY YOUR GOODBYES PROPERLY!!
DON'T MAKE TROUBLE FOR YOUR SISTER, HUH?
YEAH. I'LL BE SURE TO COME BACK, KÔSUKE!

And the Battle Ends...

JUST KID-DING!!
SHF
SAY, WHY DON'T YOU START GOING OUT WITH BLUE!!
THAT WAY HE COULD COME OVER TO PLAY ANYTIME!!
CHING CHING
HUH...?
GLANCE
BY THE WAY, NEE-CHAN... ISN'T THIS MASK THE ONE BLUE BROUGHT WITH HIM?
EH? BUT I THOUGH I SAW HIM STICK IT IN HIS POCKET.
IF IT'S HERE, WHAT'S IN HIS POCKET...?

Cycling Off with Bra-vado!

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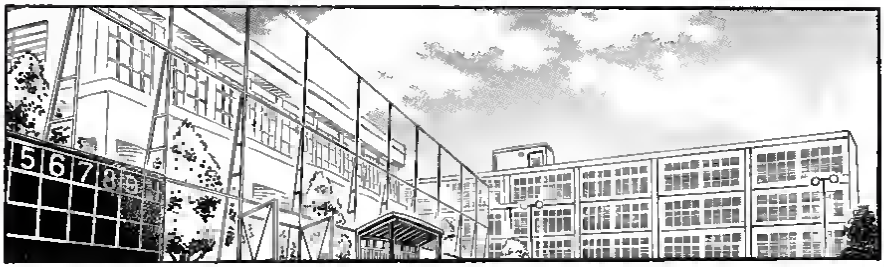
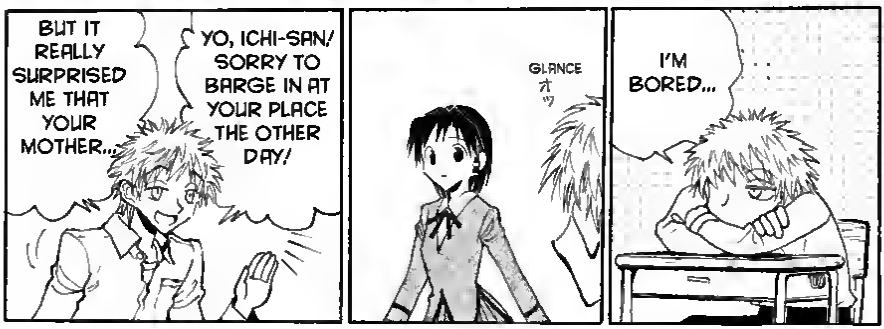
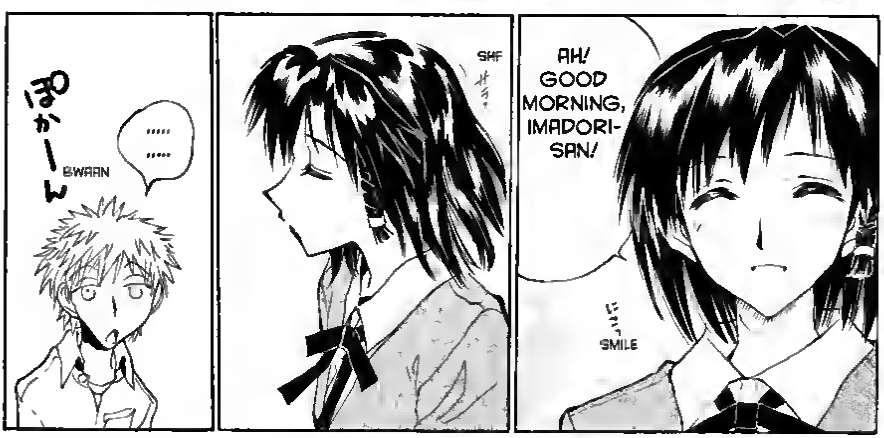
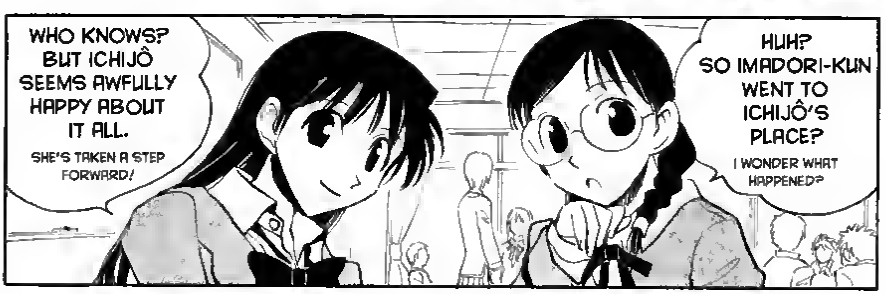







WHO KNOWS? BUT ICHIJÔ SEEMS AWFULLY HAPPY ABOUT IT ALL.
SHE'S TAKEN A STEP FORWARD!
HUH? SO IMADORI-KUN WENT TO ICHIJÔ'S PLACE?
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED?

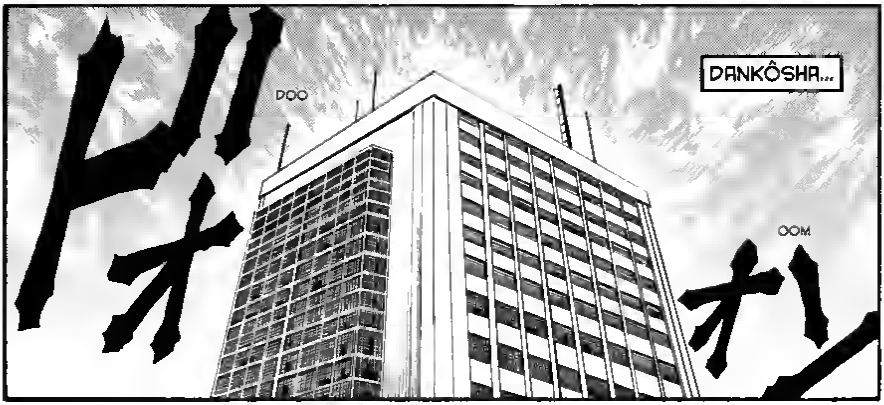
#145 AS GOOD AS IT GETS

2-C
YO, KARASUMA!
NO NEED TO THANK ME. SEE YOU LATER.
HEY, DID YOU...HAVE A GOOD TIME AT TSUKAMOTO'S BIRTHDAY PARTY?
I MANAGED TO FINISH UP THOSE MANGA PAGES AND TURN THEM IN.
HEY! IT'S TIME WE ALL PITCHED IN TO CLEAN UP!!
CHATTER
CHATTER
HUH? YOU'RE GOING TO TAIWAN OVER WINTER VACATION?!
I'M JEALOUS! ALL WE'RE DOING IS GOING TO MY GRANDMOTHER'S!
WHA—?!
WH-WHAT'S GOING ON HERE...?!
NOW THAT I MENTION IT, I'M A LITTLE WORRIED ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO KARASUMA'S MANGA. AFTER ALL, I HANDED OVER MY OWN PAGES INSTEAD.

AH.
IT'S FROM HARIMA-SAN
WHY DON'T WE ALL GO SOMEPLACE TOGETHER? GO SKIING OR SOMETHING?
YAKUMO, DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS?
HEY, ABOUT WINTER VACATION...
AHHH! ♡ COULD IT BE THAT YOU TWO ARE PLANNING YOUR NEXT DATE?
SORRY TO INTRUDE! ♡
I-IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT..
I'M SORRY TO CALL YOU HERE SO SUDDENLY, LITTLE SISTER-SAN.
.....
BUT I WANT YOU TO READ THIS.
THAT MANGA HAS BEEN PUBLISHED INSTEAD OF KARASUMA'S!!
F-FOR SOME REASON, THE MANGA I DREW...

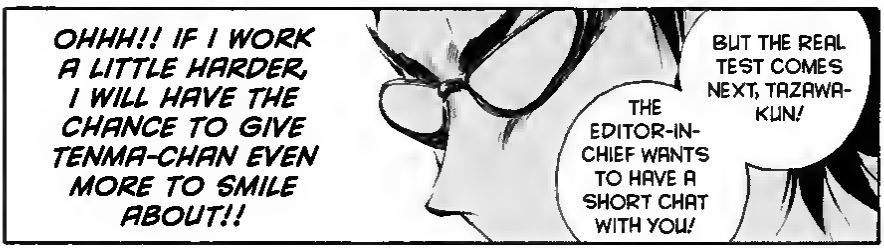
THE ART STINKS, BUT THE STORY IS PRETTY FUNNY!
DID YOU READ THE MANGA IN THIS MAGAZINE?
HEY, YOU GUYS!
JIN GAMA
BWAAAN
ぼわわ～ん
LISTENING INTENTLY
SO THEY AREN'T ALWAYS FOUR-PANEL STRIPS?
HARIMA HARIO... A NEW ARTIST?
HUH? WHICH ONE?
AH! I READ THAT, TOO!
YES, SUÔ! YOU'RE A GOOD PERSON AFTER ALL!
I'LL EVEN SIGN YOUR COPY FOR YOU LATER
YOU THINK SO? I LIKE IT DONE THIS WAY!
I HATE STORIES THAT ARE TOO COMPLI-CATED.
.....!!
WHAT GIVES YOU THE RIGHT.
HM... IT DOESN'T SEEM TOO INTELLIGENTLY WRITTEN.
I DOUBT THE AUTHOR HAS HAD ANY ROMANTIC RELATION-SHIPS.
BUT YOU DIDN'T NEED TO SAY THAT THE ART STINKS, SUÔ..
HA HA HA!! HE'S RIGHT BEFORE YOU!! THE AUTHOR CAN HEAR EVERY WORD YOU SAY!!
PRINCESS... YOUR HEART IS WRUNG DRY, AND I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU!
I'VE GONE THROUGH ANGER, AND PASSED INTO PITY/
I DON'T THINK THAT IT'S OKAY TO DISREGARD REALITY JUST BECAUSE IT'S MANGA!
JUST READING IT GETS ME IRRITATED! THIS KIND OF STORY!
HUH? COME ON!! TO HAVE THE GUY AND GIRL LIVING TOGETHER SO SUDDENLY STRETCHES CREDIBILITY!

WHAT DO YOU THINK, TENMA?
OH! THAT QUESTION WAS WELL DONE, TAKANO!
I'LL GIVE YOU TWO AUTO-GRAPHS!
EH? ME?
OKAY, I'M PRE-PARED. NOW TELL ME!
YES!
B-BMP
B-BMP
B-BMP
B-BMP
B-BMP
B-BMP
WELL... I THINK IT'S OKAY. MANGA SHOULD BE A LITTLE LIKE FULFILLING A DREAM, RIGHT?
SO I THINK IT'S OKAY FOR THINGS LIKE THAT TO BE IN THERE.
YESSS!! HEAVEN HAS SMILED UPON ME!!
NOW I KNOW IT WAS NO MISTAKE!! TENMA-CHAN!!


DOO
DANKÔSHA...
OOM

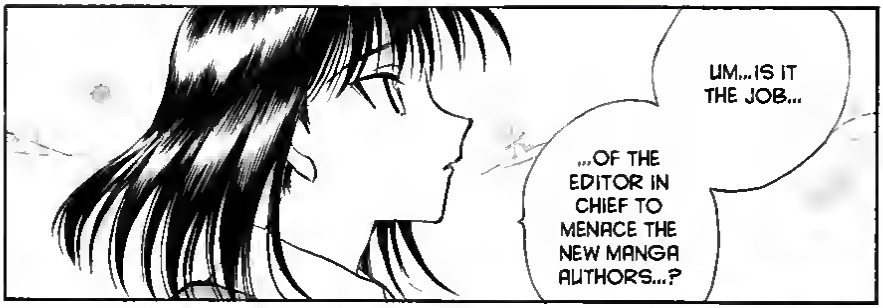
WELL, I KNEW FROM THE START THAT YOU SHOWED PROMISE!!
REALLY, THAT WAS A FUN COMIC!
THE RESPONSE FROM THE READERS HAS BEEN GREAT!

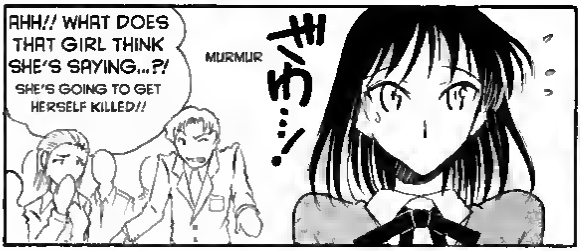
CONGRATULATIONS, TAZAWA-KUN!

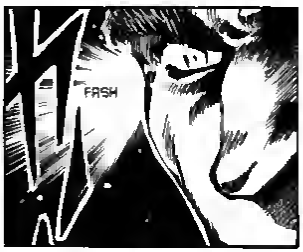

OHHH!! IF I WORK A LITTLE HARDER, I WILL HAVE THE CHANCE TO GIVE TENMA-CHAN EVEN MORE TO SMILE ABOUT!!
THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF WANTS TO HAVE A SHORT CHAT WITH YOU!
BUT THE REAL TEST COMES NEXT, TAZAWA-KUN!

HMM...
SHE HELPED OUT WITH THE MANUSCRIPT, SO I BROUGHT HER ALONG
SHE'S CUTE! YOU'RE AN ANIMAL, TAZAWA-KUN!
AH...I'M TSUKAMOTO, HIS ASSISTANT..
HUH?
HM?
WHO'S THE GIRL BEHIND YOU?

ZUMM
ZUMM
GLARE
U-U-U-U-
UM...
I-I-I-I'M...
.....
.....
UGYAAAAHH!!
H-HEY!
D-DON'T RISK
IT, SISTER-SAN!!
SST


UM...IS IT THE JOB...
...OF THE EDITOR IN CHIEF TO MENACE THE NEW MANGA AUTHORS...?


AHH!! WHAT DOES THAT GIRL THINK SHE'S SAYING...?!
SHE'S GOING TO GET HERSELF KILLED!!
MURMUR
ぎろ…!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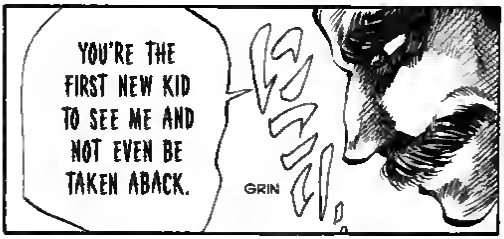
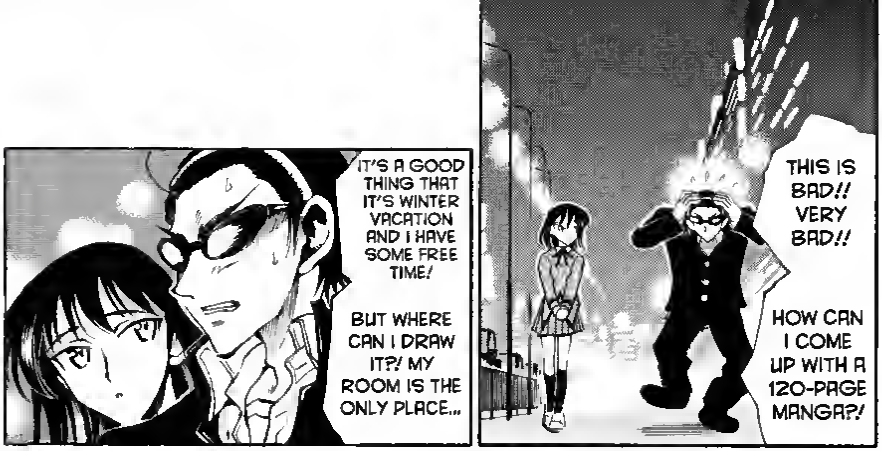

YOU'RE THE FIRST NEW KID TO SEE ME AND NOT EVEN BE TAKEN ABACK.
GRIN
ニヤリ

ZWMM
TWIKK

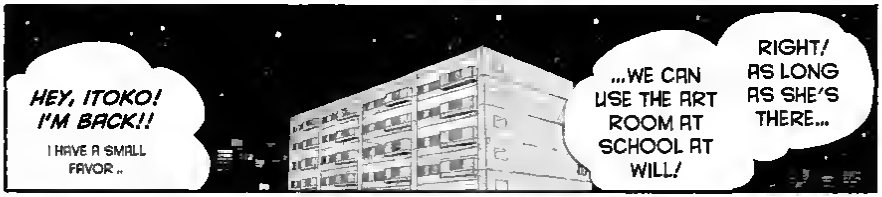
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU, TOO.
NICE TO MEET YOU, MISS.
おぉ…
WHOAHH/

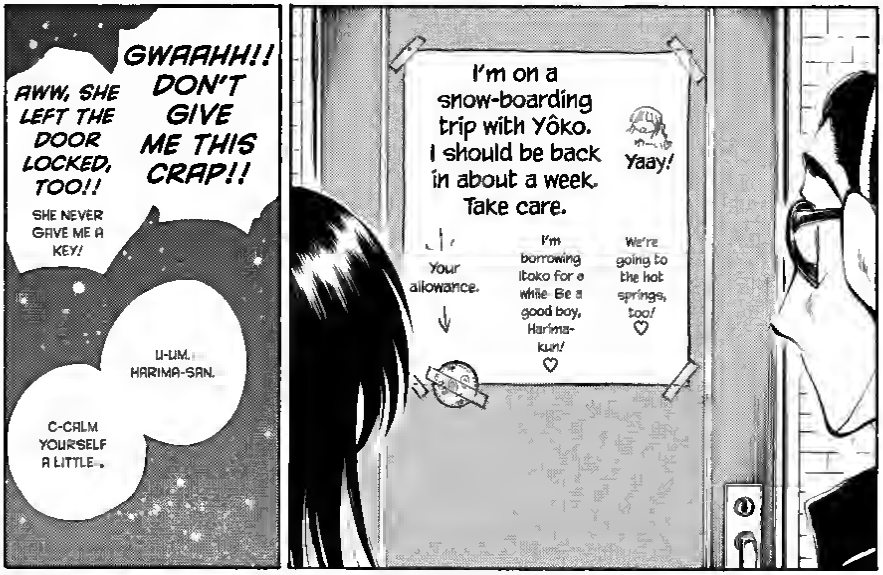
S-SO...YOU KNOW THE CAPTAIN OF THE KIKOKU-MARU... DON'T YOU?
I-I GOT THIS PEN ON THAT SHIP FROM THE CAPTAIN HIMSELF...
L-LISTEN...
GO AND DRAW A 120-PAGE MANGA. AND HAVE IT BY NEXT WEEK.

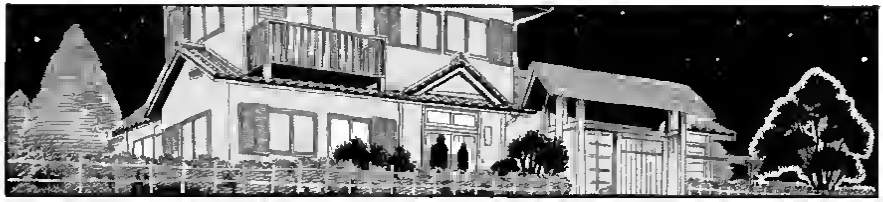
B'BEEP
BEEP

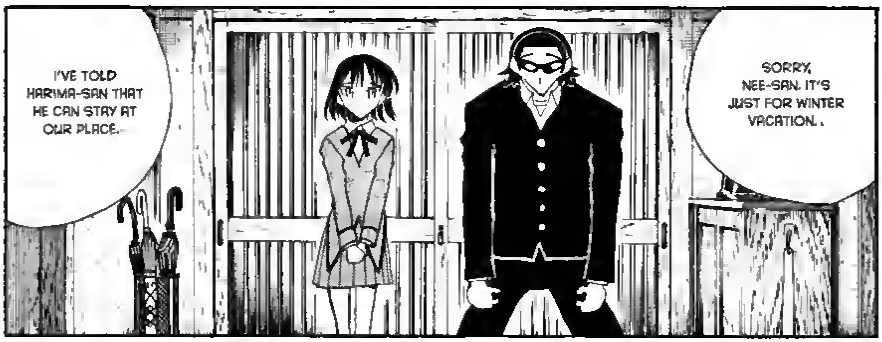

IT'S A GOOD THING THAT IT'S WINTER VACATION AND I HAVE SOME FREE TIME!
BUT WHERE CAN I DRAW IT?! MY ROOM IS THE ONLY PLACE...
THIS IS BAD!! VERY BAD!!
HOW CAN I COME UP WITH A 120-PAGE MANGA?!

SHE MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT SHE'S PRETTY DEPEND-ABLE.
TH-THAT'S TRUE, HUH?
SHE'S SOME-ONE WHO CAN BE RELIED UPON
UM. WHY DON'T WE DISCUSS THIS WITH ITOKO-SENSEI?


HEY, ITOKO! I'M BACK!!
I HAVE A SMALL FAVOR..
...WE CAN USE THE ART ROOM AT SCHOOL AT WILL!
RIGHT! AS LONG AS SHE'S THERE...

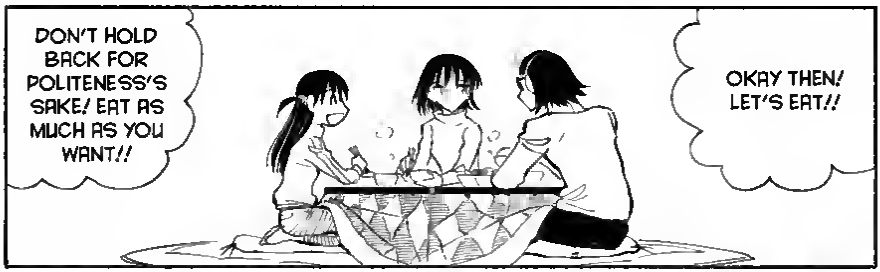

AWW, SHE LEFT THE DOOR LOCKED, TOO!!
SHE NEVER GAVE ME A KEY!
GWAAHH!! DON'T GIVE ME THIS CRAP!!
U-UM, HARIMA-SAN.
C-CALM YOURSELF A LITTLE.
I'm on a snow-boarding trip with Yôko. I should be back in about a week. Take care.
Yaay!
Your allowance.
I'm borrowing Itoko for a while. Be a good boy, Harima-kun! ♡
We're going to the hot springs, too! ♡

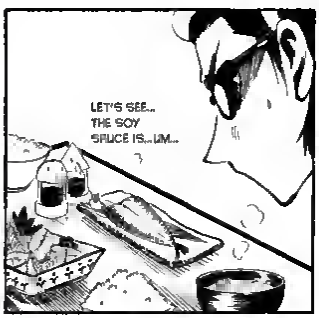




Well Done, Itoko! (Kenji)

145 . . . . . Fin

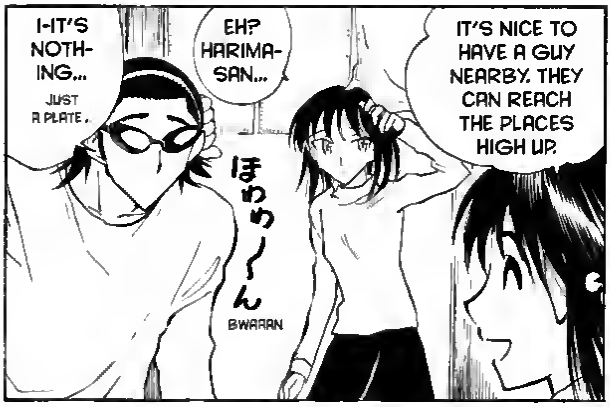




HMM...I DIDN'T GET A WINK OF SLEEP LAST NIGHT! I WAS SWEPT UP IN EVENTS THAT BROUGHT ME TO TENMA-CHAN'S HOUSE...I HAVE TO GET THAT MANGA DONE...THIS IS HARD...!

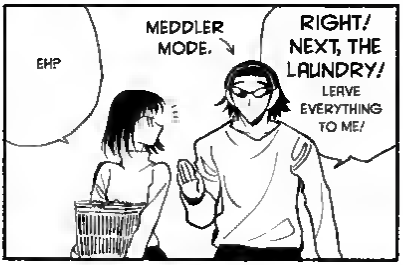
#146 ONE HOUR WITH YOU

YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO GET AROUND IN OUR PLACE YET, HUH, HARIMA-KUN?
IF YOU'VE GOT ANY QUESTIONS, JUST ASK!
HERE! HAVE SOME SOY SAUCE! IT'S IN THE OCTOPUS-HEAD BOTTLE!
OH..
IS IT REALLY A GOOD THING TO BE SO HAPPY SO EARLY IN THE MORNING?! YES, THE LIFE OF A MANGA PRO IS ONE STEP ABOVE!!
UWOOOO!! SHE SAID IT!!
TRMBL
TRMBL
TRMBL
.....
!!
YOU KNOW, I'D NEVER HAVE THOUGHT OF IT, BUT BREAKFAST FOR THREE SEEMS LIKE A PRETTY NATURAL THING!
HM... YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT
YAKUMO! PASS THE MAYON-NAISE!
AH? OKAY
Y-YEAH...
THEN COULD YOU PUT THAT PLATE AWAY?
B-BMP
B-BMP
HM? REALLY?
OH! LET ME HELP!

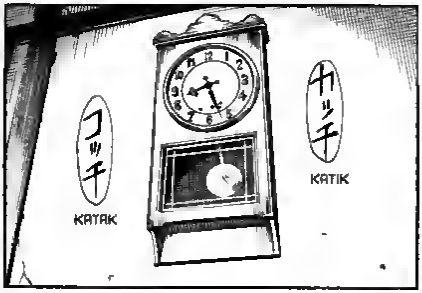

I-IT'S NOTHING... JUST A PLATE.
EH? HARIMA-SAN...
ほめ〜ん
BWAAAN
IT'S NICE TO HAVE A GUY NEARBY. THEY CAN REACH THE PLACES HIGH UP.

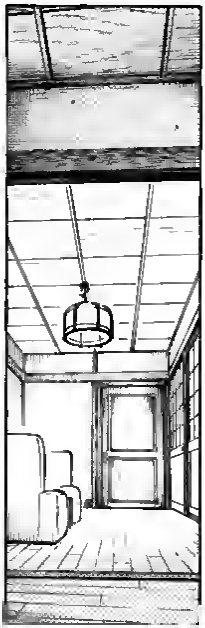
I-IS THIS WHERE IT GOES?
YEAH, THANKS!

UM... HARIMA-SAN, WHAT ABOUT YOUR MANGA...?
O-OH, THAT! I FORGOT IT COMPLETELY!


EH?
MEDDLER MODE.
RIGHT! NEXT, THE LAUNDRY! LEAVE EVERYTHING TO ME!

.....
HMM...


コッチ
KATAK
カッチ
KATIK



YES... THAT IS BIG..
LOOK AT THAT, YAKUMO! THAT'S AMAZING!
THEY'VE GROWN HIM TOO BIG!
KUTA-KUN HAS GROWN AND NOW STANDS AT THREE METERS
AH! SORRY ABOUT THAT! I DIDN'T NOTICE!
U-UH... I GOT A LITTLE THIRSTY...
HUH? WHAT IS IT, HARIMA-KUN?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! YOU'RE OUR HONORED GUEST! JUST RELAX! IS COFFEE GOOD FOR YOU?
O-OKAY, THEN... SORRY...
N-NO! IF YOU JUST TELL ME WHERE THE STUFF IS, I'LL GET IT MYSELF!
WHEN YOU WANT A REFILL, JUST SAY SO!
O-OKAY. THANKS...

I MEAN, IT ISN'T VERY OFTEN THAT YOU ASK A FAVOR OF ME, YAKUMO!
SO I WON'T ASK ANY QUESTIONS!
SORRY, NEE-SAN...
YOU REALLY SURPRISED ME YESTERDAY. BRINGING HARIMA-KUN HOME WITH YOU!
WELL, IT CAN'T BE HELPED!
GIVE IT YOUR BEST, HARIMA-KUN!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GIVING YOUR BEST AT, BUT...
NEE-SAN..
TMP
DO YOUR BEST, LITTLE WIFEY!
I-IT ISN'T ANY-THING LIKE THAT...
I'LL SEE HOW HE'S COMING along
KONK KONK
BUT IT'S AN ODD FEELING...

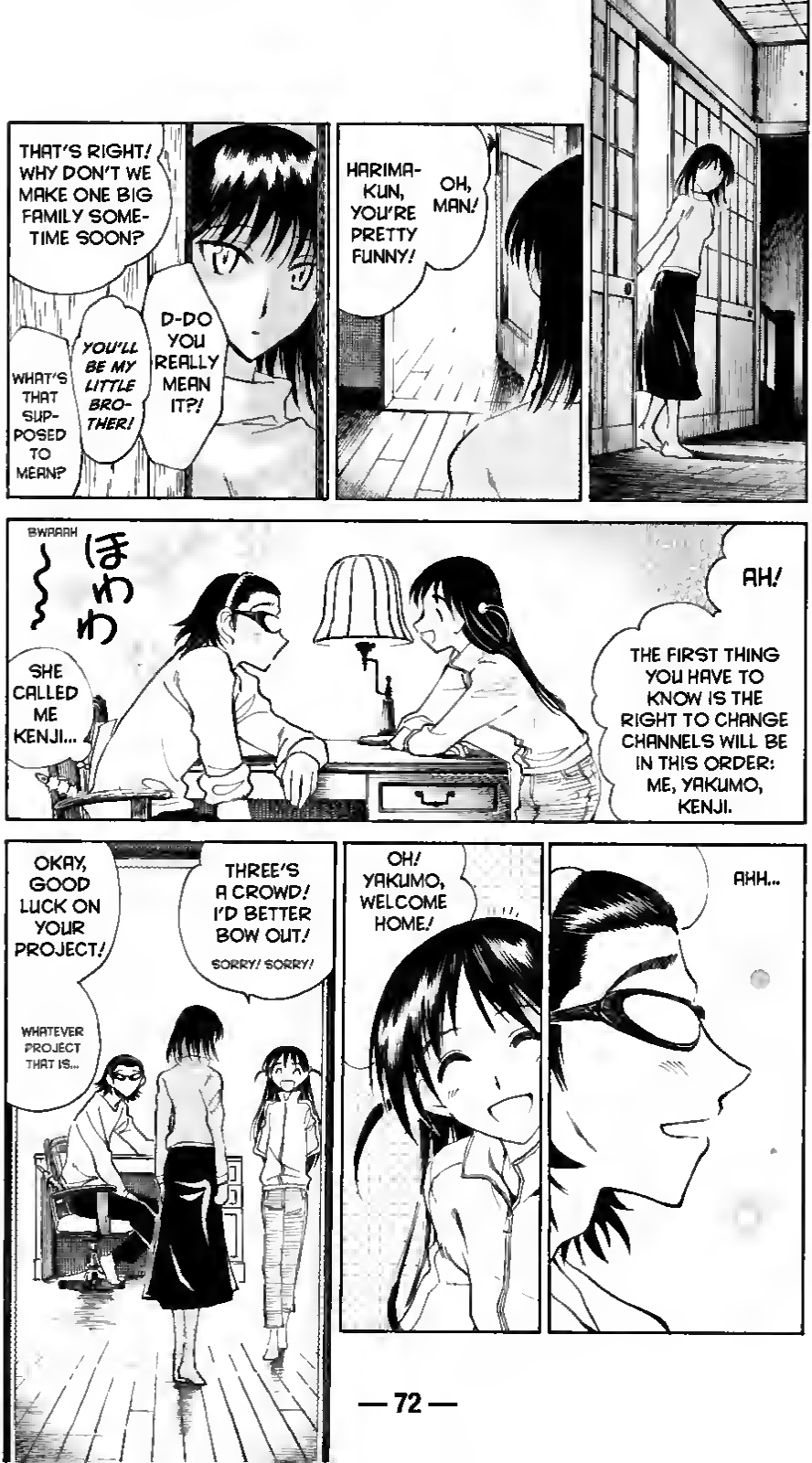
HARIMA-SAN.
ISN'T IT, IORI?
UM.. I'M COMING IN.
HOW IS IT COMING ...?
ARE YOU MAKING PROGRESS ON YOUR MANGA...?
NO GOOD DRAW-INGS...
NO GOOD DRAW-INGS ARE COMING OUT OF MY HAND...
MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO TAKE A BREAK...
U-UM...
N O !
Father?

UM...
IF IT WOULD HELP, I CAN POSE..
...BUT I JUST CAN'T FIGURE THE COMPOSITION OUT.
NO... I KNOW WHAT I WANT TO DRAW, BUT...
EH...?
ARE YOU SURE, SISTER-SAN?
THEN COULD YOU HOLD THE POT?
AH... YES...
カッチ
KATAK
カッチ
KATIK
...THAT I FINALLY FOUND A WAY TO HELP HARIMA-SAN... JUST A BIT LONGER...
BUT NOW, I GET THE FEELING...
AH...
IT'S ABOUT TIME THAT I SHOULD GET STARTED ON DINNER...

UM...
SORRY. I HAVE TO GO GET SOME.
OH, NO!
I RAN OUT OF INK!
NO... I HAVE AN ERRAND I HAVE TO DO..
IT'S ON THE WAY.
Y-YOU'RE SURE? OKAY...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? I CAN'T KEEP BEGGING FAVORS OFF OF YOU!
HOW ABOUT IF I WENT TO GET SOME?
I-IT ISN'T ANYTHING LIKE THAT... I NEED TO BUY INK, TOO..
SORRY, NEE-SAN. I'M SO LATE AT GETTING DINNER TOGETHER..
HUH? YOU'RE GOING SHOP-PING NOW, YAKUMO?
HUH? INK?
I-I'LL BE BACK SOON!
NAW, NO PROBLEM!
I GUESS ONLY HOME-BAKED MEALS WILL DO FOR NEWLYWEDS!!
AH, YOUNG LOVE!

Harima: Allows Others to Run His Errands.

WINTER IS JUST ABOUT HERE.
IT'S COLD..
THINGS HAVE GOTTEN CHILLY TONIGHT..
NEE-SAN, I'M HOME
SST
EH? SHE ISN'T HERE?
IT'S GOTTEN SO LATE! I'M SORRY!
I'M HOME!


THAT'S RIGHT! WHY DON'T WE MAKE ONE BIG FAMILY SOMETIME SOON?
D-DO YOU REALLY MEAN IT?!
YOU'LL BE MY LITTLE BROTHER!
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
HARIMA-KUN, YOU'RE PRETTY FUNNY!
OH, MAN!
BWAAAH
ほわわ
SHE CALLED ME KENJI...
AH!
THE FIRST THING YOU HAVE TO KNOW IS THE RIGHT TO CHANGE CHANNELS WILL BE IN THIS ORDER: ME, YAKUMO, KENJI.
OKAY, GOOD LUCK ON YOUR PROJECT!
THREE'S A CROWD! I'D BETTER BOW OUT!
SORRY! SORRY!
WHATEVER PROJECT THAT IS...
OH! YAKUMO, WELCOME HOME!
AHH...

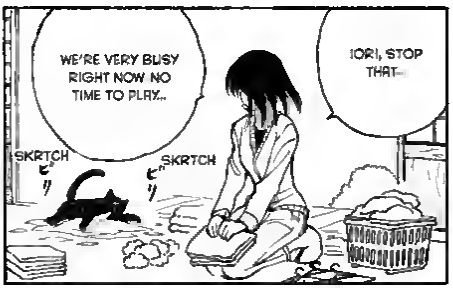
SISTER-SAN!
UM...
IT'S NOTHING.
UM.. HARIMA-SAN, YOUR INK...
OH, THAT'S RIGHT!
THANKS, SISTER-SAN!
LET'S DRAW THIS 120-PAGE MANGA!!
NOW, LET'S GET STARTED!
I'M ALL FIRED UP TO DO THIS!!

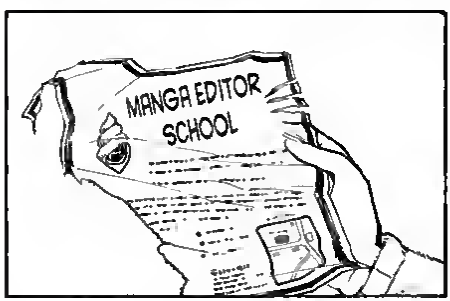
YOUNG MISS...
NAKAMURA...
HAVE YOU... MADE YOUR DECISION?
IT'S NOT *MY* DECISION.
I CAN'T GO AGAINST ORDERS, CAN I?
YOUR MOTHER HAS ALSO MADE HER PREPARATIONS.
BESIDES, EVEN IF I'M GONE, NOBODY WILL...

With Various Emotions in Play, the Winter Freeze Has Come to Yagami.

146 · · · · · · · · · Fin

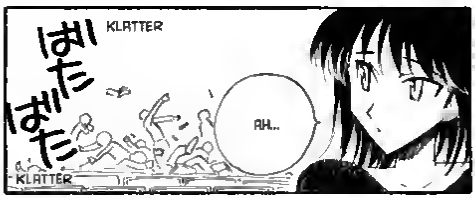
#147 TEST PILOT



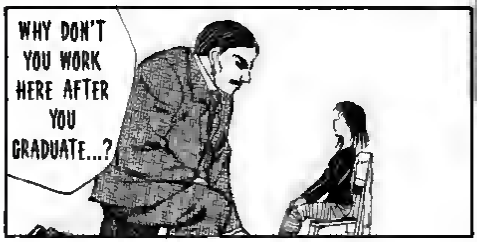


EDITOR IN CHIEF GOTÔ!!
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE YOUR INSTRUCTOR FOR THE DAY! HE STARTED OUT AS A FISHERMAN, BUT NOW HE RUNS WEEKLY SHÔNEN HN GAMA

ごぐ…
GULP!
ざわ…
MURMUR

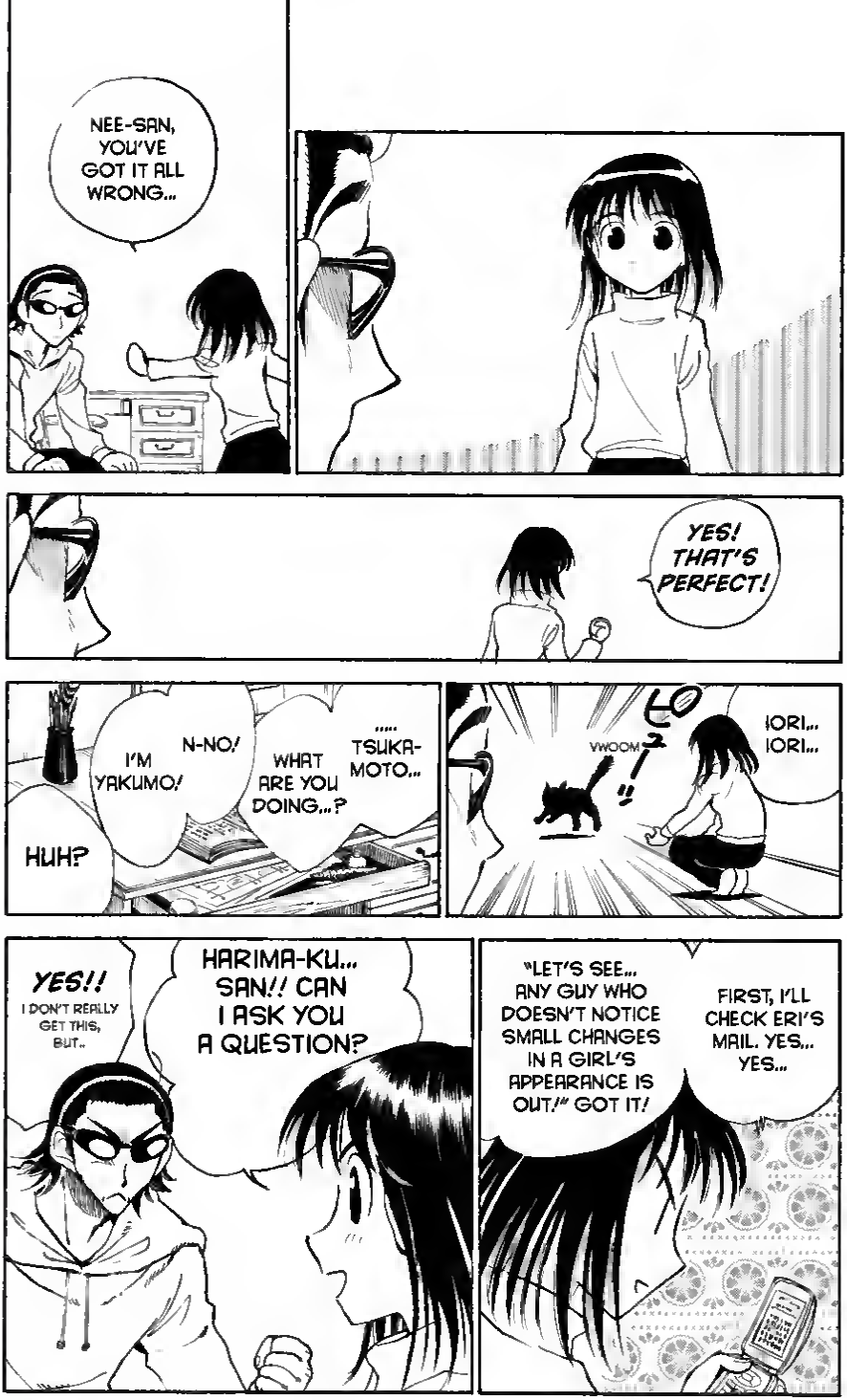

ばたばた
KLATTER
KLATTER
AH...

HEH...
フッ
YOU AGAIN...

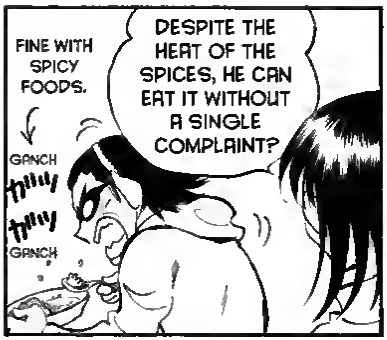

WHY DON'T YOU WORK HERE AFTER YOU GRADUATE...?

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHEN, MAKE THEM DRAW THE MANGA!!
EVEN WHEN THEY'RE HOSPITALIZED!! EVEN WHEN THEY'RE HEARTBROKEN!!

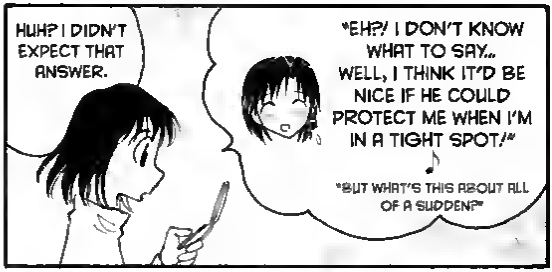
BUT HIS LECTURE...
I HARDLY UNDERSTOOD ANY OF IT...
HE GAVE ME A BADGE OF APPROVAL...
MEANWHILE AT THE TSUKAMOTO HOUSE...
HEHN HEHN HEHN HEHN HEHN HEHN...
♪
AH! I HAVE TO CHECK HARIMA-KUN'S HUNK-QUOTIENT!
IT'S A SISTER'S DUTY!
GLEEM
AWW!! I JUST LOVE LOVE!!
TWRL
TWRL
YAKUMO AND HARIMA-KUN ARE SO IN LOVE, IT'S MAKING MY HEART POUND!!
EH HEE HEE!
IT'S INCRED-IBLE!!
HM?
HARIMA-SAN...
SHUMP
カリ
I'LL TRANS-FORM INTO YAKUMO!
IF HARIMA-KUN THINKS IT'S ME, I WON'T GET HIS REAL FEELINGS!
THAT'S RIGHT!
HERE COME THE ANSWERS!!
LET'S SEE.
OH!
PIROPIROOON
PIROPIROOON
I CAN'T HANDLE THIS ALONE. I'LL ASK EVERYBODY WHAT CONDI-TIONS THEY THINK QUALIFY A GUY AS HUNKY!
PEEP
PEEP
PEEP

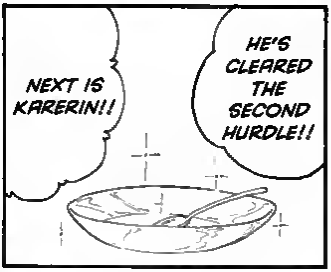

NEE-SAN, YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG...
YES! THAT'S PERFECT!
HUH?
I'M YAKUMO!
N-NO!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING...?
..... TSUKA-MOTO...
VWOOM
IORI... IORI...
YES!!
I DON'T REALLY GET THIS, BUT..
HARIMA-KU... SAN!! CAN I ASK YOU A QUESTION?
"LET'S SEE... ANY GUY WHO DOESN'T NOTICE SMALL CHANGES IN A GIRL'S APPEARANCE IS OUT!" GOT IT!
FIRST, I'LL CHECK ERI'S MAIL. YES... YES...

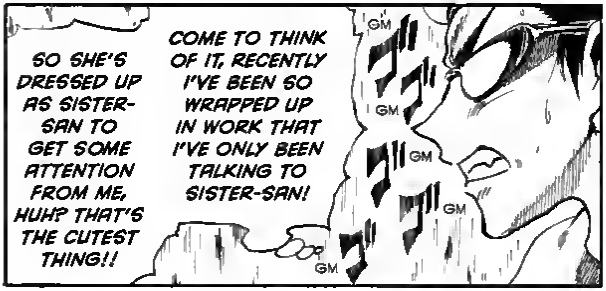
EH... ..... ?
Y-YEAH... QUITE A BIT DIFFERENT. WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOUR HAIR... YOUR CLOTHES...
DON'T YOU THINK I'M A BIT DIFFERENT TODAY?
"HMM... I'D BE HAPPY IF HE LOOKED LIKE EVERYTHING I COOKED WAS REALLY DELICIOUS."
THAT'S TRUE! I AGREE! THAT'S MIKO-CHAN FOR YOU!
FIRST TEST, CLEARED!!
YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD AT THIS, HARIMA-KUN!
NEXT, FOR MIKO-CHAN'S MAIL!!
SLEEK
ぼとぼと!!
DO-GLUB-GLUB
AND MAKE IT EXTREMELY SPICY... I WONDER IF HE CAN STAND IT...?
OKAY, WE'LL TAKE YAKUMO'S CURRY...
OHHH!! AFTER SO LONG, TENMA-CHAN'S HOMEMADE COOKING!!
IT'S ROUGH STUFF, BUT I'M STILL HAPPY!!
EH...?
HERE, HARIMA-SAN!
EAT UP!


FINE WITH SPICY FOODS.
DESPITE THE HEAT OF THE SPICES, HE CAN EAT IT WITHOUT A SINGLE COMPLAINT?
GANCH
GANCH

E-EYAAH!
GAHHH
IT'S GREAT!!
HUH? I CAN ACTUALLY EAT THIS!

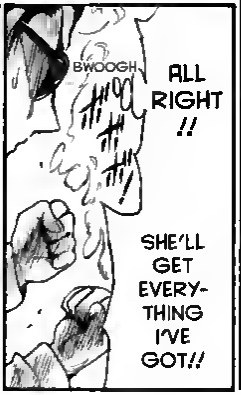

HUH? I DIDN'T EXPECT THAT ANSWER.
"EH?! I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY... WELL, I THINK IT'D BE NICE IF HE COULD PROTECT ME WHEN I'M IN A TIGHT SPOT!"
"BUT WHAT'S THIS ABOUT ALL OF A SUDDEN?"

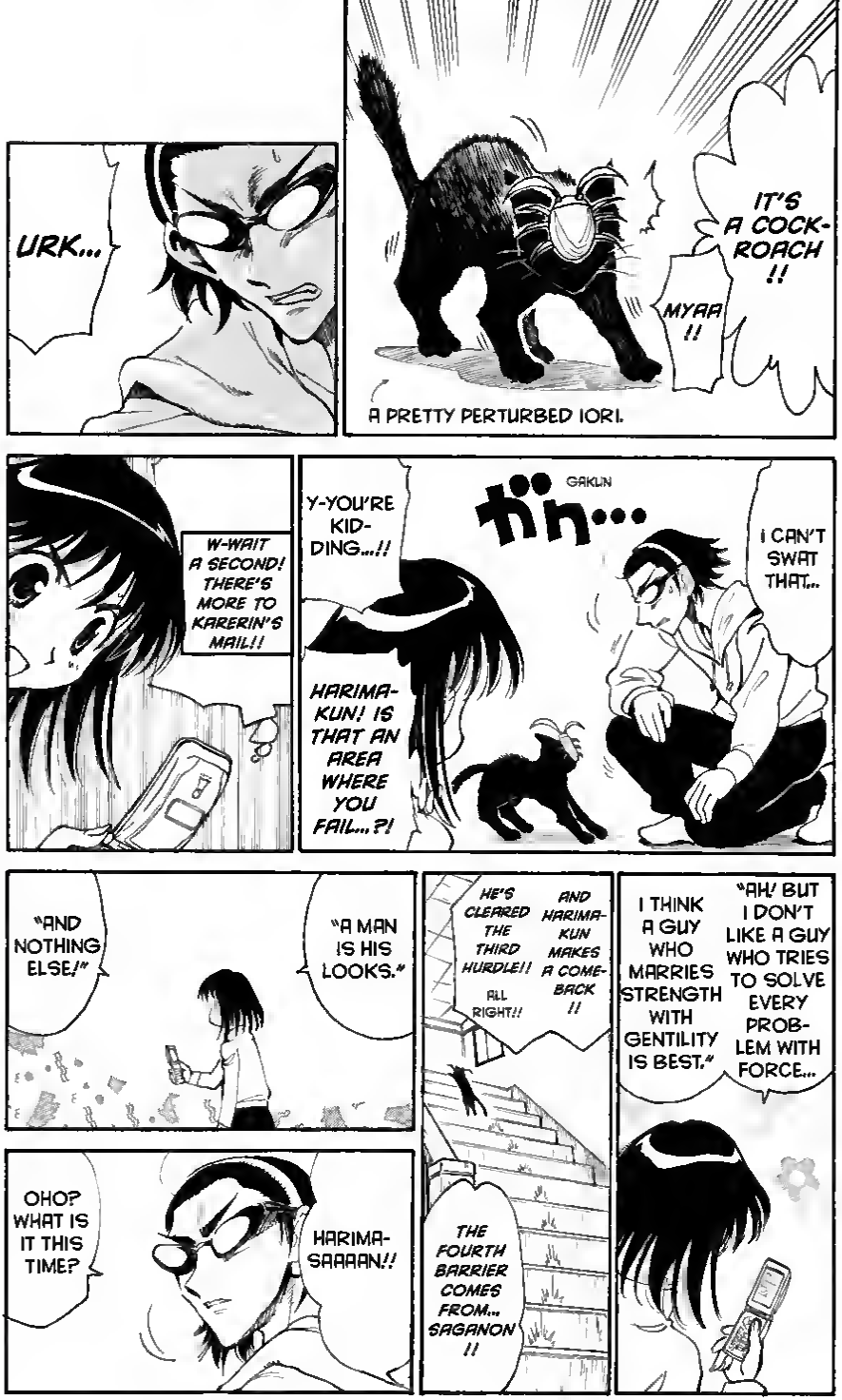

NEXT IS KARERIN!!
HE'S CLEARED THE SECOND HURDLE!!


SO SHE'S DRESSED UP AS SISTER-SAN TO GET SOME ATTENTION FROM ME, HUH? THAT'S THE CUTEST THING!!
COME TO THINK OF IT, RECENTLY I'VE BEEN SO WRAPPED UP IN WORK THAT I'VE ONLY BEEN TALKING TO SISTER-SAN!
GM
GM
GM
GM
GM

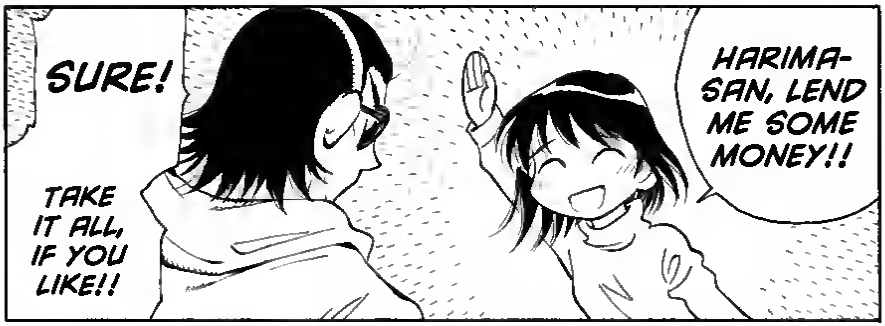
HM... IN A TIGHT SPOT.
B-BUT TENMA-CHAN... WHAT'S THIS ABOUT, ALL OF A SUDDEN?
AH!! IT COULDN'T BE...

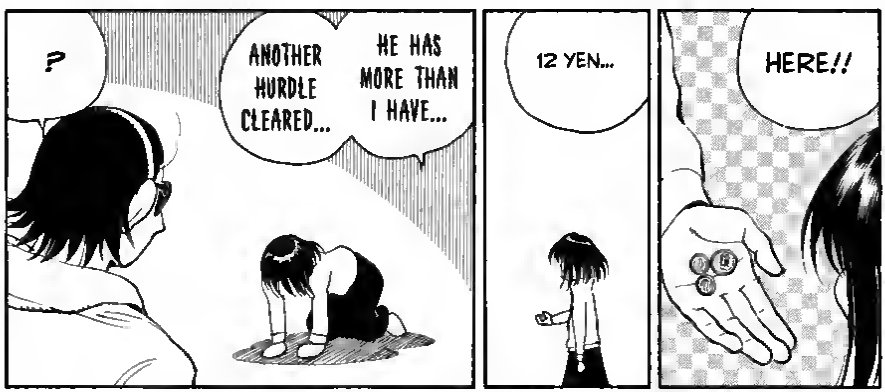
HO!! WHAT IS IT?!
KYAA! HARIMA-SAN!! OVER THERE!!


BWOOGH
ALL RIGHT!!
SHE'LL GET EVERY-THING I'VE GOT!!

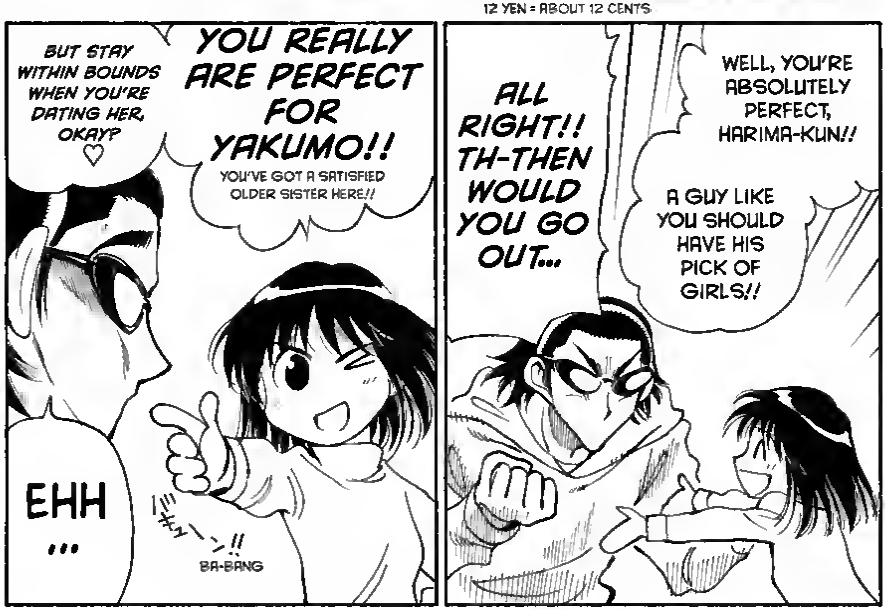

URK...
IT'S A COCK-ROACH !!
MYAA !!
A PRETTY PERTURBED IORI.
W-WAIT A SECOND! THERE'S MORE TO KARERIN'S MAIL!!
Y-YOU'RE KID-DING...!!
GAKUN
tin...
I CAN'T SWAT THAT...
HARIMA-KUN! IS THAT AN AREA WHERE YOU FAIL...?!
"AND NOTHING ELSE!"
"A MAN IS HIS LOOKS."
HE'S CLEARED THE THIRD HURDLE!!
ALL RIGHT!!
AND HARIMA-KUN MAKES A COME-BACK !!
I THINK A GUY WHO MARRIES STRENGTH WITH GENTILITY IS BEST."
"AH! BUT I DON'T LIKE A GUY WHO TRIES TO SOLVE EVERY PROB-LEM WITH FORCE...
OHO? WHAT IS IT THIS TIME?
HARIMA-SAAAAN!!
THE FOURTH BARRIER COMES FROM... SAGANON !!

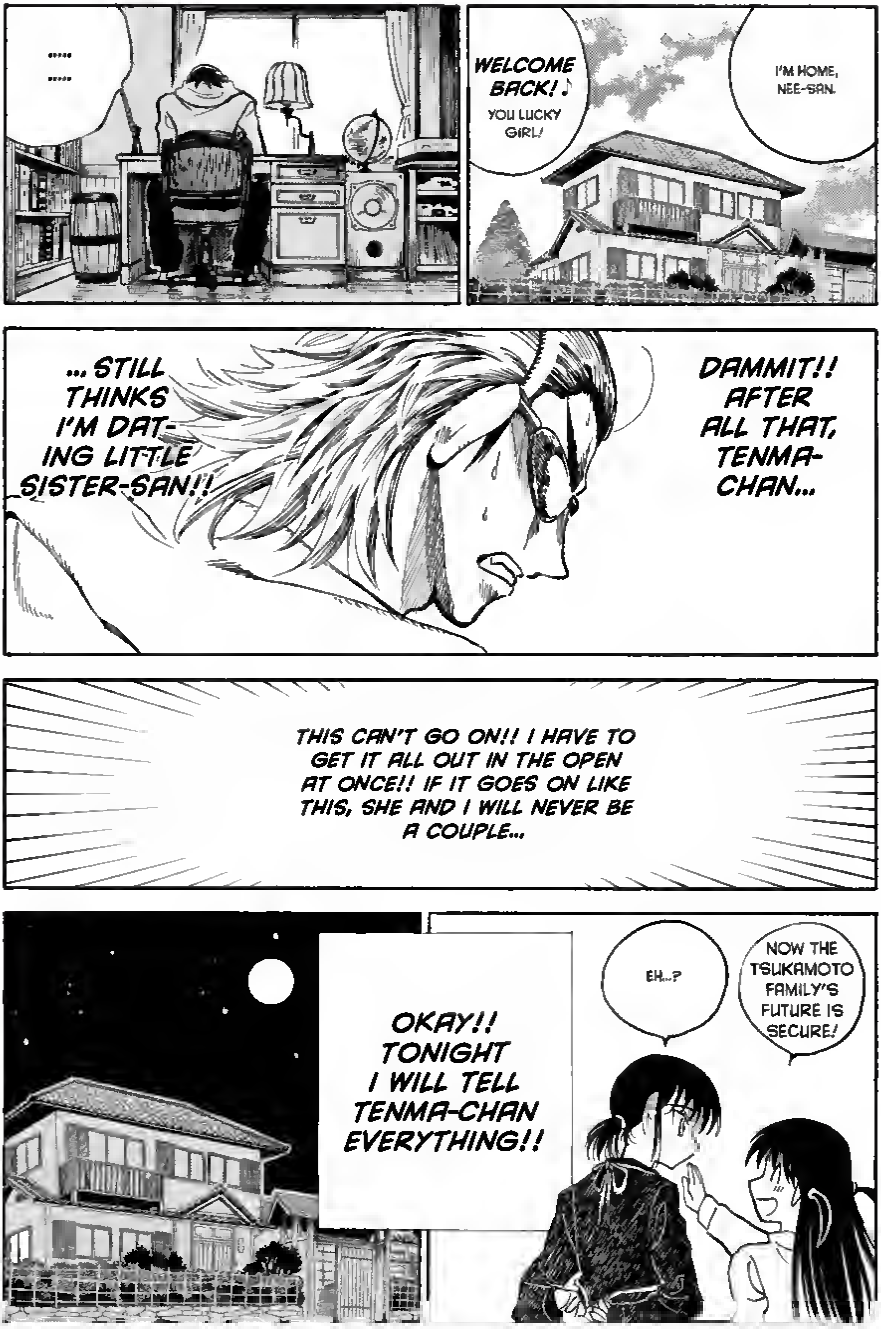
LET'S SEE...WELL, YOU'RE UNEXPECT-EDLY...
HUUHP
?
さっ
ZWIP
LET ME BORROW YOUR SUN-GLASSES !!
GUWAAH !!
G-GIVE THOSE BACK!!
ばっ
WHOOSH
IT SEEMS TO ME THAT I'VE SEEN THAT FACE SOMEWHERE BEFORE...
HMM...
じー
STARRE
.....
.....
EH?
.....
.....
HM?
THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE!! BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT HER TO REMEMBER MY FACE...
S-SORRY. Y-YOU KNOW... THE GLARE...
GIVE ME A BETTER LOOK!
AWW!
"WEALTH."
AND LAST, AKIRA-CHAN!!
WE'LL SAY HE PASSES.
WELL, IT'S OKAY. AND WITH THE SUN-GLASSES, IT MAKES THE POINT MOOT.





12 YEN = ABOUT 12 CENTS


BUT STAY WITHIN BOUNDS WHEN YOU'RE DATING HER, OKAY?
YOU REALLY ARE PERFECT FOR YAKUMO!!
YOU'VE GOT A SATISFIED OLDER SISTER HERE!!
EHH...
BA-BANG
ALL RIGHT!! TH-THEN WOULD YOU GO OUT...
WELL, YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY PERFECT, HARIMA-KUN!!
A GUY LIKE YOU SHOULD HAVE HIS PICK OF GIRLS!!

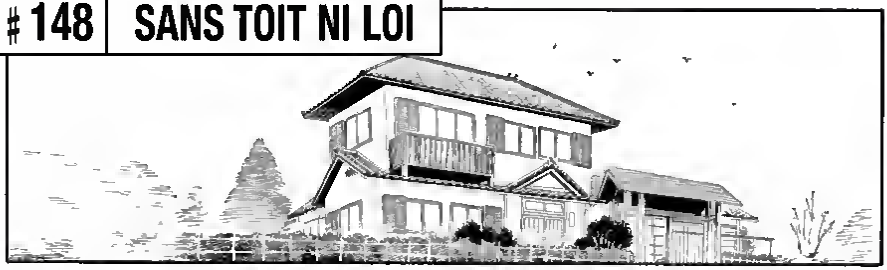

.....
.....
WELCOME BACK! ♪
YOU LUCKY GIRL!
I'M HOME, NEE-SAN.
... STILL THINKS I'M DATING LITTLE SISTER-SAN!!
DAMMIT!! AFTER ALL THAT, TENMA-CHAN...
THIS CAN'T GO ON!! I HAVE TO GET IT ALL OUT IN THE OPEN AT ONCE!! IF IT GOES ON LIKE THIS, SHE AND I WILL NEVER BE A COUPLE...
OKAY!! TONIGHT I WILL TELL TENMA-CHAN EVERYTHING!!
EH...?
NOW THE TSUKAMOTO FAMILY'S FUTURE IS SECURE!

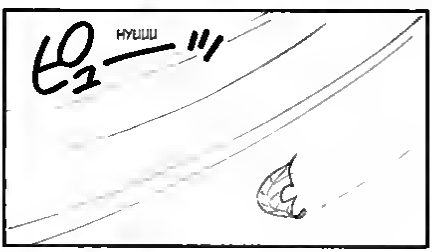
カチャ…
KACHAK
THIS IS TENMA-CHAN'S ROOM. I'M PRETTY SURE OF IT...
ギシ…
KREEK
ギシ…
KREEK
THAT PROVES IT. WITH THAT HAIR—
スー…スー…
ZZZZ
ZZZZ
ヒタ.
POIT
.....
SORRY TO DO THIS SO LATE, TSUKAMOTO...
.....
FOR THE LONGEST TIME, I'VE...!!
GAMPH
HOWEVER, TONIGHT, I CAN RUN AWAY NO LONGER! !...!...
I SHOULD HAVE SAID THIS A LONG TIME AGO, BUT I LACKED THE COURAGE.

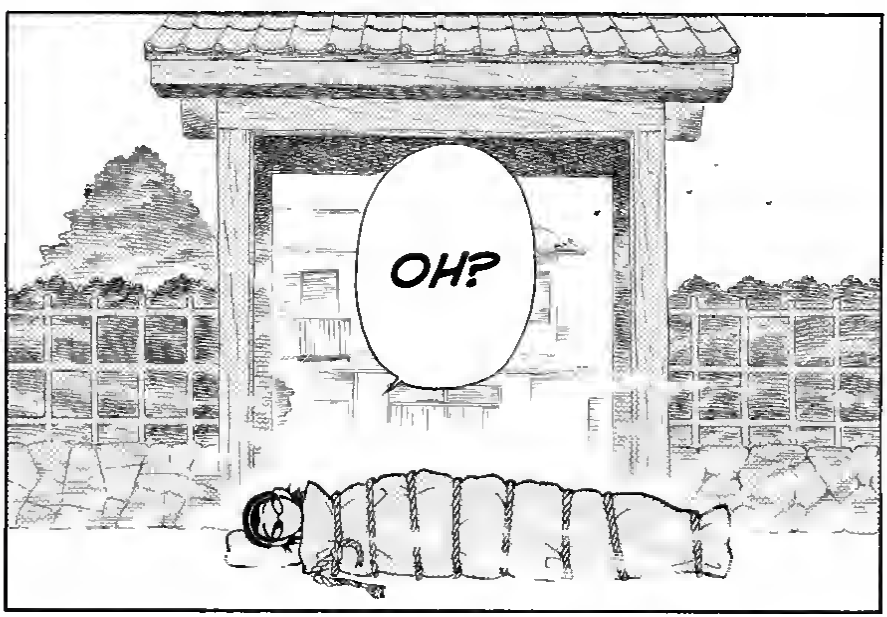
We Dub Thee: Cockroach Hair.

147 · · · · · · · · · Fin

#148 SANS TOIT NI LOI

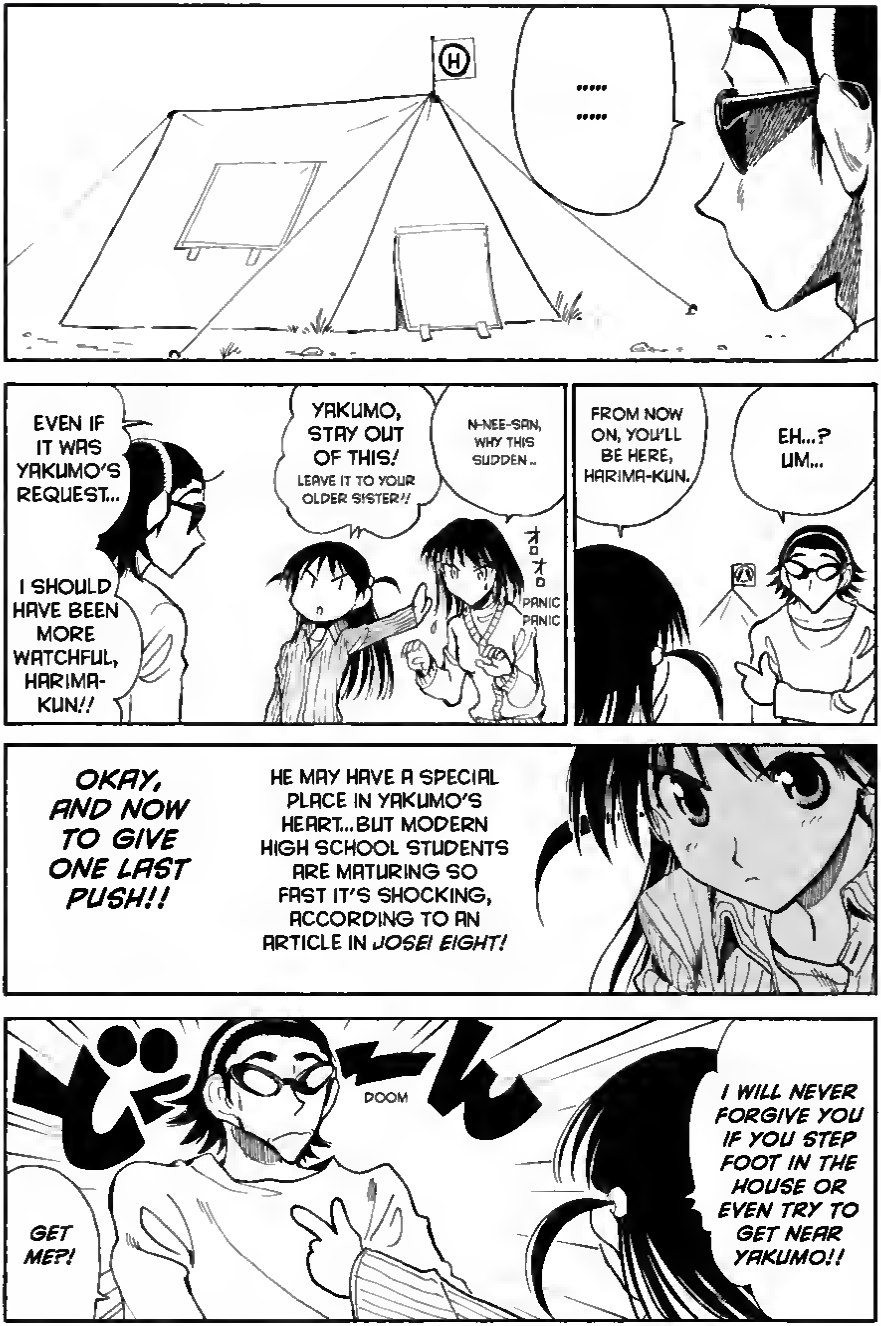






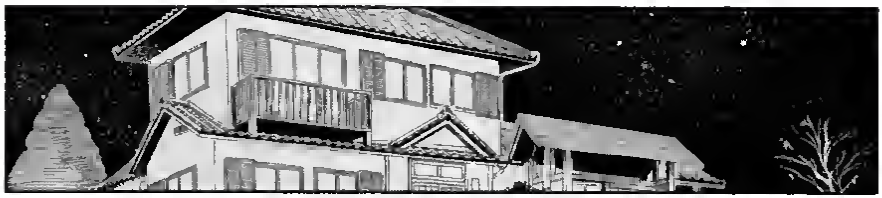
NEE-SAN...
I CAN'T SEEM TO FIND HARIMA-SAN...
WHO KNOWS WHERE HE IS?
OUT FOR A WALK, PROBABLY.
I NEVER THOUGHT FOR A SECOND THAT HARIMA-KUN WOULD TRY TO SNEAK INTO YAKUMO'S BEDROOM LAST NIGHT!! I GUESS WE CAN'T LET OUR GUARD DOWN FOR EVEN A SECOND! HE'S JUST A MONKEY AFTER ALL!!
I WILL PROTECT YAKUMO!!
AH!
HEY!!
OH. YOU'RE... IORI, RIGHT?
I GUESS LAST NIGHT WAS BAD FOR BOTH OF US.
COME ON! ANYBODY CAN SEE THAT I'M ALIVE—
HEY!! STOP THAT!!
WHAMM
BAMM
HEY! A JUVENILE DELINQUENT FELL DOWN HERE!
WE'D BETTER CHECK TO SEE IF HE'S ALIVE OR NOT.

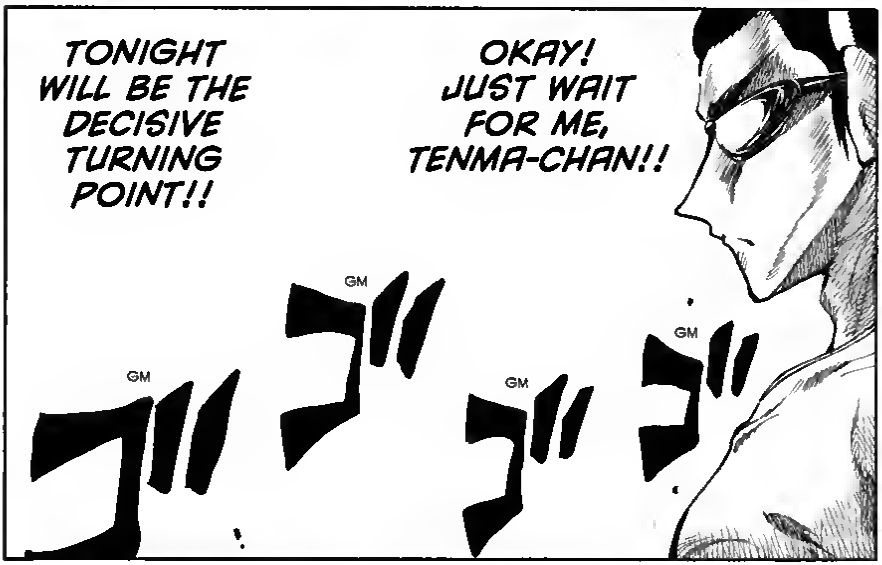
H-HARIMA-SAN, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN..?
I-I DON'T REALLY KNOW...
FOR SOME REASON I WAS TRUSSED UP OUTSIDE...
EH?
I KNOW THAT LAST NIGHT, I WAS SLEEPING IN THE ROOM YOU LENT ME.
TSUKAMOTO, DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING?
WHY, YOU MUST BE A SLEEPWALKER.
WELL, ANYWAY, I HAVE TO WORK ON THE PAGES...
KACHAK
..... SAY...
I CAN'T SEEM TO FIND MY BELONGINGS...
AH!
WAS IT A BIG BAG? I'M AFRAID I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS INSIDE.
I MOVED IT TO OUR GUEST HOUSE.
EH...?
YOU HAVE A GUEST HOUSE?
TH-THIS COULD BE A DISASTER!!
COULD SHE HAVE SEEN MY MANGA?!
YOUR SPARE CLOTHES AND EVERYTHING... THEY'RE ALL THERE.
DAMMIT!! YOU MEAN OUT HERE?!
SHUMP

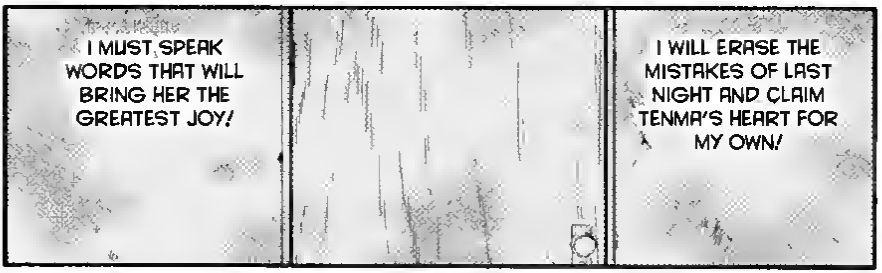

.....
.....
EVEN IF IT WAS YAKUMO'S REQUEST...
I SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE WATCHFUL, HARIMA-KUN!!
YAKUMO, STAY OUT OF THIS!
LEAVE IT TO YOUR OLDER SISTER!!
N-NEE-SAN, WHY THIS SUDDEN..
オロオロ
PANIC PANIC
FROM NOW ON, YOU'LL BE HERE, HARIMA-KUN.
EH...? UM...
OKAY, AND NOW TO GIVE ONE LAST PUSH!!
HE MAY HAVE A SPECIAL PLACE IN YAKUMO'S HEART...BUT MODERN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE MATURING SO FAST IT'S SHOCKING, ACCORDING TO AN ARTICLE IN JOSEI EIGHT!
DOOM
GET ME?!
I WILL NEVER FORGIVE YOU IF YOU STEP FOOT IN THE HOUSE OR EVEN TRY TO GET NEAR YAKUMO!!

(Note) Tenma Is Also a Modern High School Student.

LOOK INSIDE YOURSELF AND THINK ABOUT IT!
EH?! WHY?!
HUH...?
HA! YOU'RE STILL TRYING TO PLAY INNOCENT?!
I'M DRAWING A COMPLETE BLANK.
NOPE...
.....
.....
.....
WH-WHAT ARE YOU... WHAT EVIDENCE...?
GLARE
I HAVE EVIDENCE, YOU KNOW!!
IT'S AN UGLY SIGHT, SEEING YOU MAKE LAME EXCUSES!!
NO...RIGHT NOW, I HAVE TO BE CALM...LET ME FIGURE THIS OUT MY WAY!
HER ENCOURAGEMENT OF SISTER-SAN IS THE RESULT OF THE COMPLEX WORKINGS OF THE FEMALE HEART
THUS SHE IS ANGRY
BUT LAST NIGHT, I WENT INTO SISTER-SAN'S ROOM BY MISTAKE
SHE HAS BEEN WAITING FOR ME TO TELL HER HOW I FEEL.
TENMA-CHAN LOVES ME.
ALL I WANTED TO DO WAS GET CLOSER TO HER LAST NIGHT!! WHAT'S GOT HER ALL ENRAGED?!
YAKUMO, IT'S ALSO YOUR FAULT FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO SENSE THE DANGER!!
AND YOU WERE IN GRAVE DANGER, LET ME TELL YOU!!
N-NEE-SAN. I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, BUT THIS IS TOO MUCH.




TONIGHT WILL BE THE DECISIVE TURNING POINT!!
OKAY! JUST WAIT FOR ME, TENMA-CHAN!!
GM
GM
GM
GM

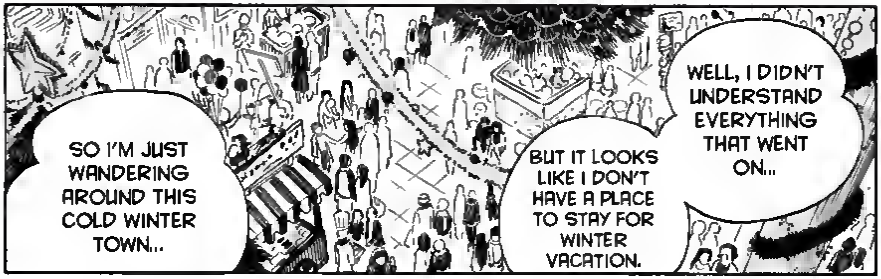

I MUST SPEAK WORDS THAT WILL BRING HER THE GREATEST JOY!
I WILL ERASE THE MISTAKES OF LAST NIGHT AND CLAIM TENMA'S HEART FOR MY OWN!

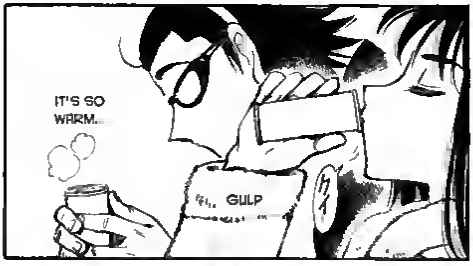
.....
.....
ALL RIGHT, I'VE GOT IT!! THERE IS ONLY ONE PHRASE THAT WILL CLEAR UP ALL MISUNDERSTAND-INGS!!
"I WOULD DIE FOR YOU!" "PLEASE BE THE COOK OF MY MORNING MEAL!" SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT WITH THOSE!

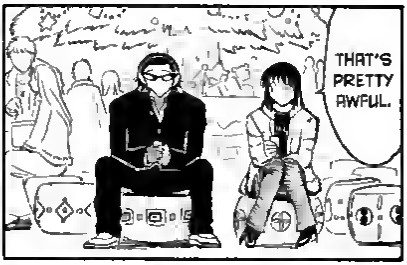
BUT AFTER THE SCOLDING I GAVE HIM, I CAN JUST RELAX NOW, HUH...
MMM... THERE'S JUST NOTHING ANYONE CAN DO ABOUT HARIMA-KUN!!
KONK KONK
THIS TIME, IT'S YOUR TURN!!

YOU WILL LEAVE THIS INSTANT!!
THIS I CANNOT OVER-LOOK!!
TS-TSUKAMOTO... FROM THE FIRST, IT'S ALWAYS BEEN Y—
IT'S LIKE YOU DON'T CARE WHO YOU'RE WITH!!
...SO THIS TIME YOU MADE A PLAY FOR ME?!
YOU COULDN'T GET YAKUMO ...
URRNN... WHAT IS IT THAT SHE DOESN'T LIKE ABOUT ME...?
T-TENMA-CHAN...
ヒュ〜〜
HYUUU
MY MANGA... TENMA-CHAN... IT'S ALL WIPED CLEAR AWAY...
トボ〜
SLUMP
WHAT AM I SUP-POSED TO DO NOW...
トボ
SLUMP

YAGAMI GINZA SHOPPING DISTRICT
CHRISTMAS FAIR
...WE'D HAVE SURELY BEEN JUST LIKE THIS.
IF ONLY TENMA-CHAN HADN'T MISUNDER-STOOD...
OH, SO YOU'VE FINALLY OPENED YOUR EYES, TENMA-CHAN!
NOW TAKING ORDERS FOR CHRISTMAS CAKES
WHAT'RE YOU DOING, HARIMA?
TALKING TO BEKO-CHAN?
THE LITTLE JERK STARTED THE FIGHT!!
SO I'M SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT!
HM... IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THAT TO ME...
KENJI-KUN! LET'S GO BACK TO MY PLACE AFTER THIS! ♥
I'LL MAKE YOU DINNER!!


SO I'M JUST WANDERING AROUND THIS COLD WINTER TOWN...
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I DON'T HAVE A PLACE TO STAY FOR WINTER VACATION.
WELL, I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING THAT WENT ON...

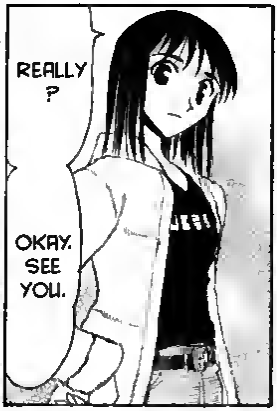

IT'S SO WARM...
GULP


THAT'S PRETTY AWFUL.

WELL, TO BE PRECISE, YOU'D BE STAYING AT HANAI'S.
PEOPLE CAN COME AND GO AS THEY PLEASE IN THE DOJO.

LISTEN...
...YOU COULD COME STAY AT MY HOUSE.
EH?

TRY NOT TO CATCH COLD.


REALLY?
OKAY. SEE YOU.

BUT YOU'VE GOT NO PLACE TO GO, RIGHT?
NO... I CAN'T IMPOSE ON ANYBODY ELSE.
I CAN FIND MYSELF A PLACE TO SLEEP.
THANKS FOR THE COFFEE.

When Tenma Throws Him Away, Who Will Pick Him Up...?

YOU CAN USE THE SOFA AND STUFF. AND DON'T ABUSE ANYTHING.
THIS'LL BE YOUR ROOM.
SORRY TO PUT YOU OUT AT A TIME LIKE THIS...
HEY, NO PROBLEM.
YOU'RE PRETTY LATE!
EH? IT'S NOTHING. JUST THAT A SUDDEN ERRAND CAME UP.
BUT MORE IMPORTANT, ARE YOU HUNGRY?
NO... I'M FINE.
BUT ARE YOU SURE IT'S ALL RIGHT TO PUT ME UP AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
HEY, NO PROBLEM!
WHAT'S A LODGER OR TWO?

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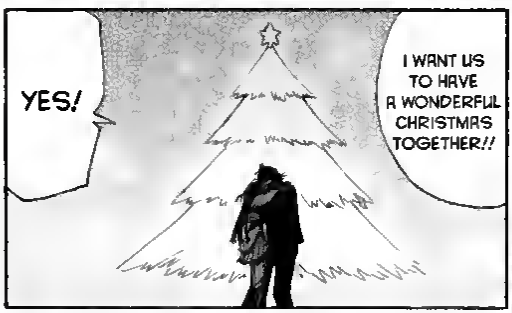
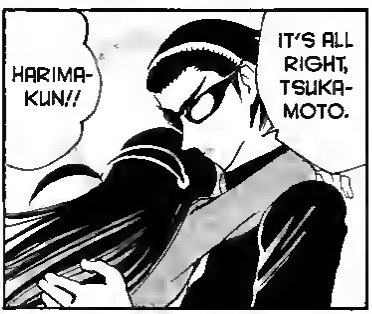
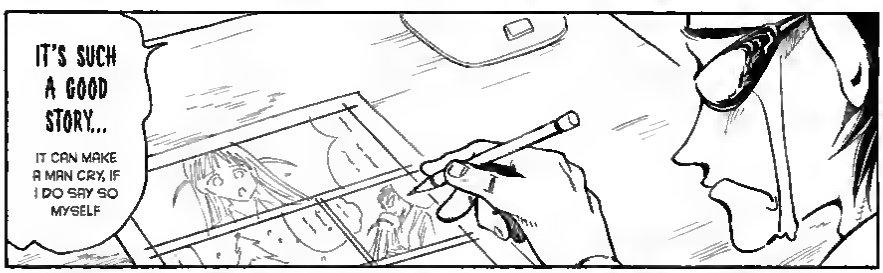
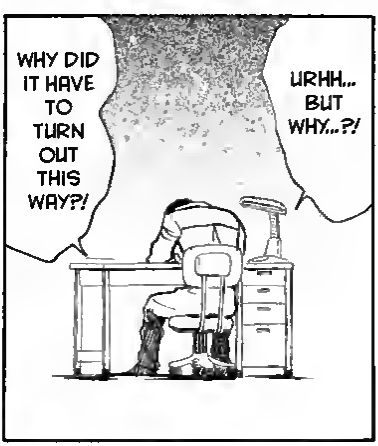




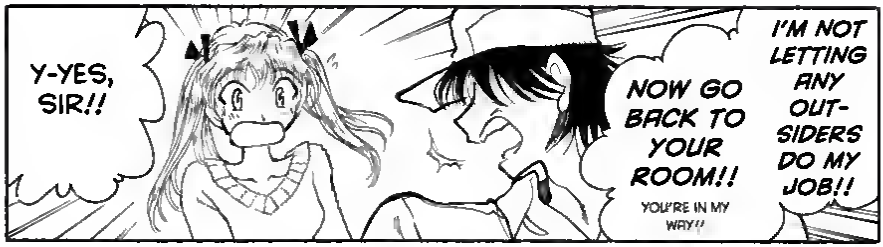


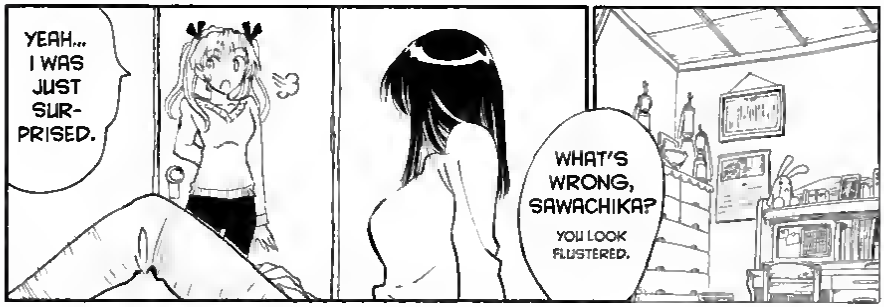


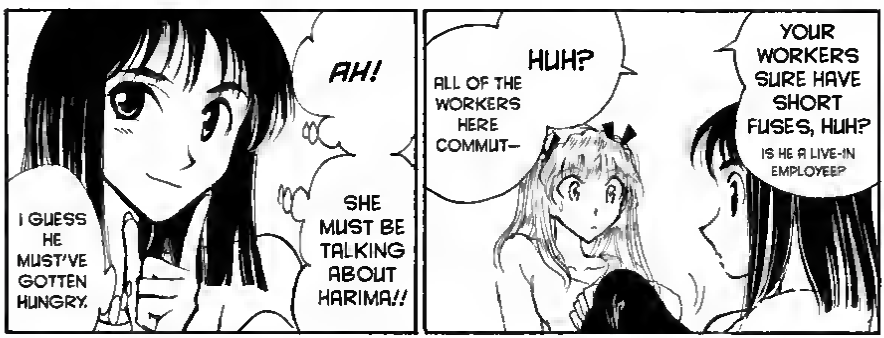
#149 | ARLINGTON ROAD

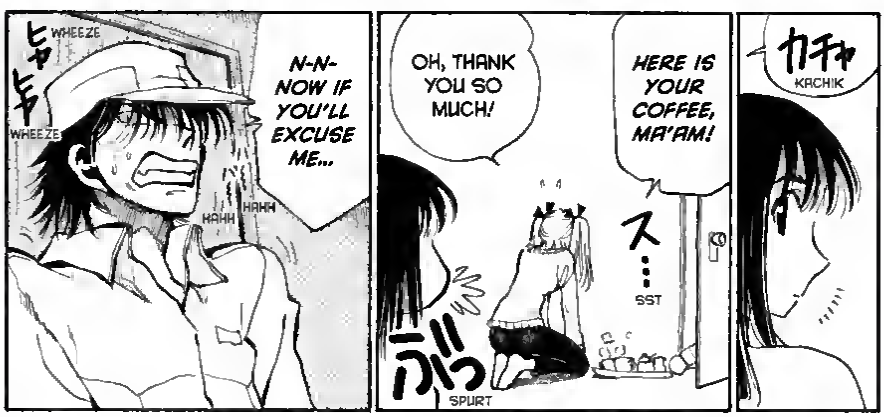
MAYBE I CAN GET SOME-THING TO EAT FROM SUÔ'S HOUSE...
I'M PRETTY HUNGRY...
GRLWL
グゥ
I HATE TO HAVE TO LEAVE MY SUNGLASSES BEHIND, BUT...
I'M IN NO POSITION TO ARGUE.
AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT SUÔ SAID.
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO GO ANYWHERE I WANT AS LONG AS I'M IN UNIFORM.
HEY, THEY'VE GOT UDON!
SO WHERE'S THE KITCHEN...
THIS IS BAD!! IT'S SOMEBODY FROM SUÔ'S FAMILY!!
AHH!!
TAK
IS SOME-BODY THERE?
THE FOOD AT TENMA-CHAN'S PLACE...
...WAS SO GOOD!!
BUT EVEN IN MY CONDITION, I STILL GET HUNGRY, HUH?

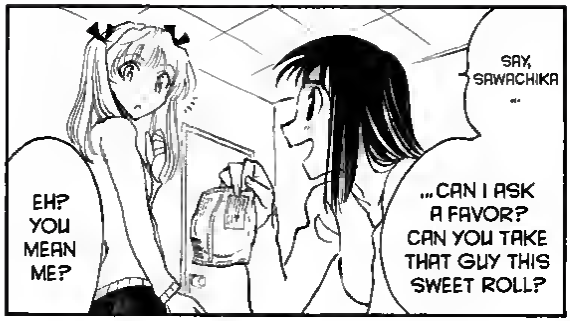
AH! YOU'RE AN EMPLOYEE HERE?
MAYBE... MAYBE SHE DOESN'T RECOG-NIZE ME?
W-WAIT A SECOND...
WH-WHAT IS THE PRIN-CESS DOING HERE?!
NOTHING GOOD CAN COME OF INVOLVING THE PRINCESS IN MY LIFE!!
SO I'LL STAY OUT OF HER WAY.
...I CAN BS MY WAY OUT OF THIS BY PRETEND-ING TO BE SOMEBODY ELSE!!
IF THAT'S TRUE...
U-UM... SUÔ-SAN ASKED ME TO BRING YOU COFFEE...
ACTUALLY, THEY'RE PUTTING ME UP HERE, SO IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO...
POFF
IT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT!
EH...? N-NO, I'LL DO IT...
WELL THEN, I'LL JUST MAKE IT UP. YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT.


Y-YES, SIR!!
NOW GO BACK TO YOUR ROOM!!
YOU'RE IN MY WAY!!
I'M NOT LETTING ANY OUT-SIDERS DO MY JOB!!


YEAH... I WAS JUST SUR-PRISED.
WHAT'S WRONG, SAWACHIKA?
YOU LOOK FLUSTERED.

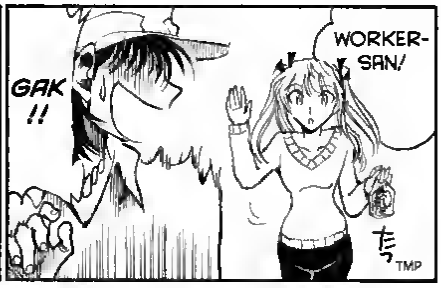

AH!
I GUESS HE MUST'VE GOTTEN HUNGRY.
SHE MUST BE TALKING ABOUT HARIMA!!
HUH?
ALL OF THE WORKERS HERE COMMUT—
YOUR WORKERS SURE HAVE SHORT FUSES, HUH?
IS HE A LIVE-IN EMPLOYEE?

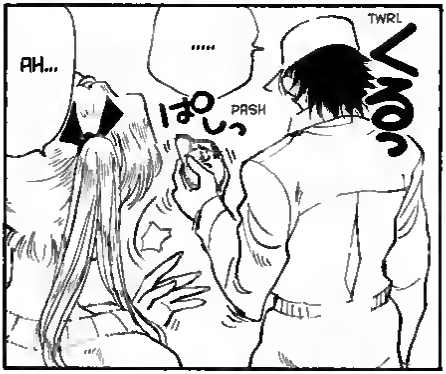

ヒャヒャ
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
N-N-NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...
HAHH
HAHH
OH, THANK YOU SO MUCH!
HERE IS YOUR COFFEE, MA'AM!
スッ…
SST
ぷしっ
SPURT
カチャ
KACHIK

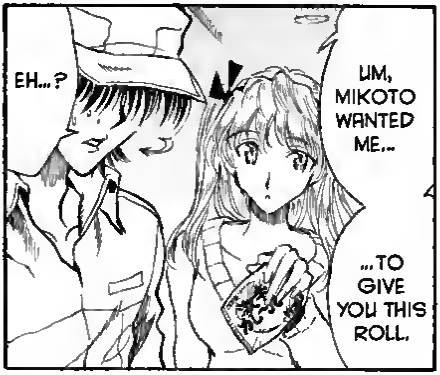

SAY, SAWACHIKA...
...CAN I ASK A FAVOR? CAN YOU TAKE THAT GUY THIS SWEET ROLL?
EH? YOU MEAN ME?

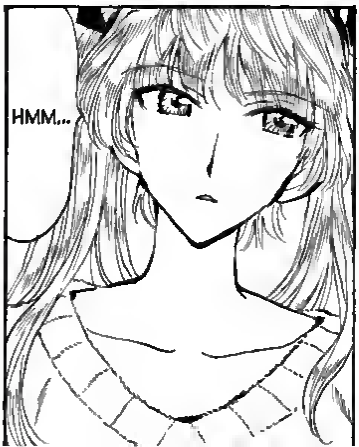
HEH
HEH
HEH

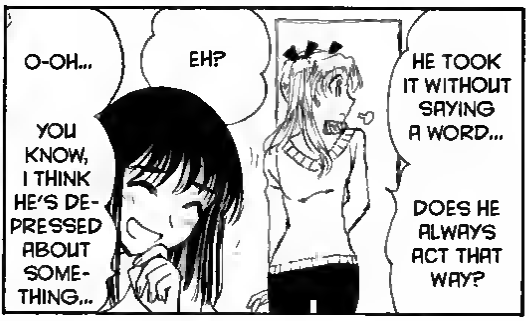
WH-WHAT IS SHE DOING CHASING AFTER ME?!
H-HAS SHE FOUND ME OUT?!


GAK!!
WORKER-SAN!
TMP

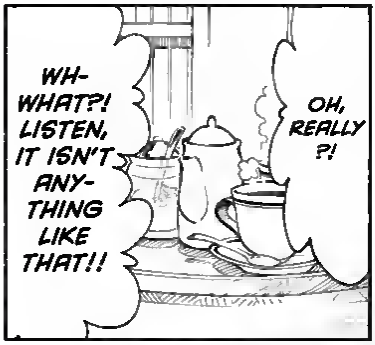

AH...
.....
TWRL
PASH
ぱしっ
NOM

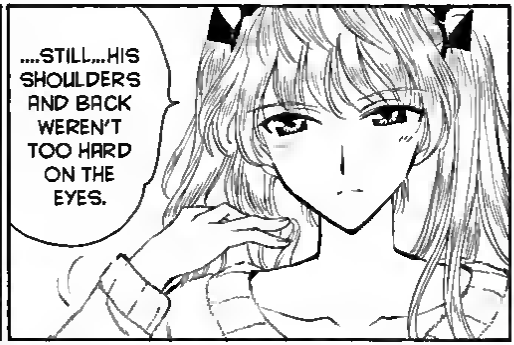

EH...?
UM, MIKOTO WANTED ME...
...TO GIVE YOU THIS ROLL.


HMM...

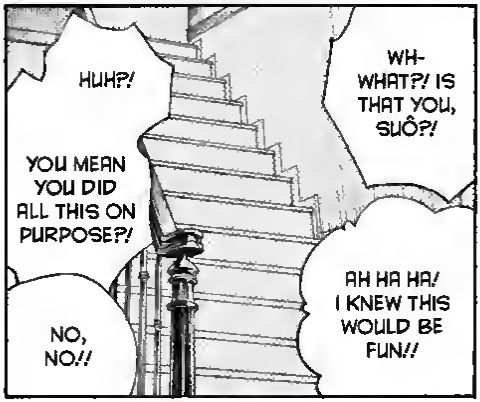

O-OH...
EH?
HE TOOK IT WITHOUT SAYING A WORD...
YOU KNOW, I THINK HE'S DE-PRESSED ABOUT SOME-THING...
DOES HE ALWAYS ACT THAT WAY?

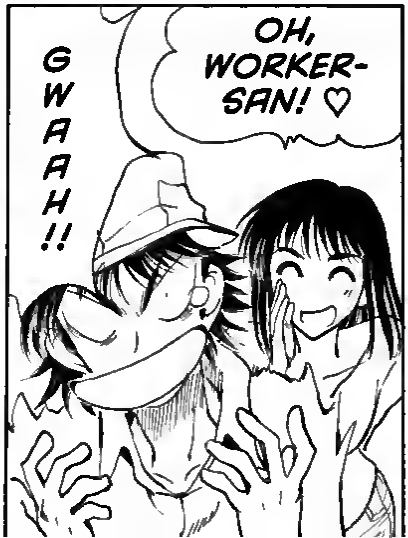
N-N-NO, I COULDN'T!!
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO JUMP TO THAT CONCLUSION SO QUICKLY?!
COULD YOU BE ESPECIALLY CON-CERNED OVER HIM?
EH? OH? SAWACHIKA-SAN?


WH-WHAT?! LISTEN, IT ISN'T ANY-THING LIKE THAT!!
OH, REALLY?!


....STILL...HIS SHOULDERS AND BACK WEREN'T TOO HARD ON THE EYES.

I'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE!
DAMMIT!! IF THE PRINCESS LEARNS ABOUT MY SITUATION, SHE'LL PROBABLY LAUGH OUT LOUD!!
SHE'S JUST THAT TYPE!!

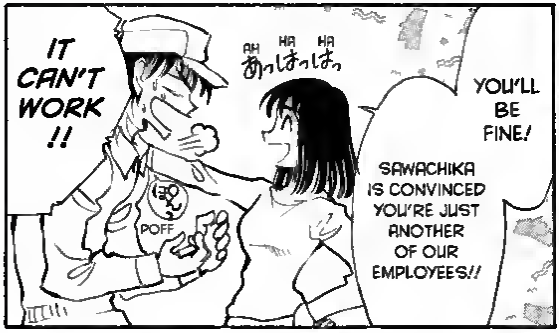

HUH?!
WH-WHAT?! IS THAT YOU, SUÔ?!
YOU MEAN YOU DID ALL THIS ON PURPOSE?!
AH HA HA! I KNEW THIS WOULD BE FUN!!
NO, NO!!


OH, WORKER-SAN! ♡
G W A A H !!

WHY IS THE PRINCESS AT YOUR PLACE ANYWAY?!
YOU COULD HAVE TOLD ME!!
WHAT'S IT TO YOU? GIRLS SLEEP OVER ALL THE TIME!
STILL, I GET WHY SHE DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU. THIS OUTFIT IS AN IMPROVEMENT. HARDLY A TRACE OF THE OLD HARIMA LEFT.
SHUT UP!!

H-HUH?!
GUARD THE PLACE, OKAY? ♪

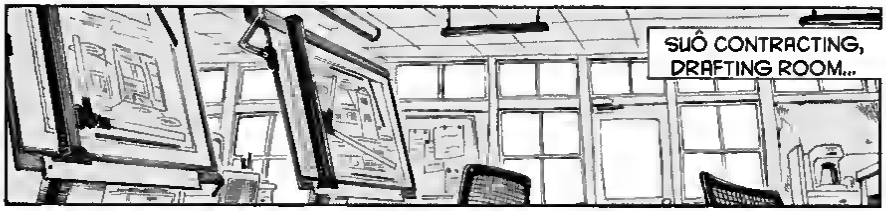
ANYWAY, THE REASON I'M HERE. I'VE GOT TO GO OUT AND DO SOME ERRANDS.
AND SO...


IT CAN'T WORK !!
AH HA HA あっしはっはっ
POFF
YOU'LL BE FINE!
SAWACHIKA IS CONVINCED YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER OF OUR EMPLOYEES!!

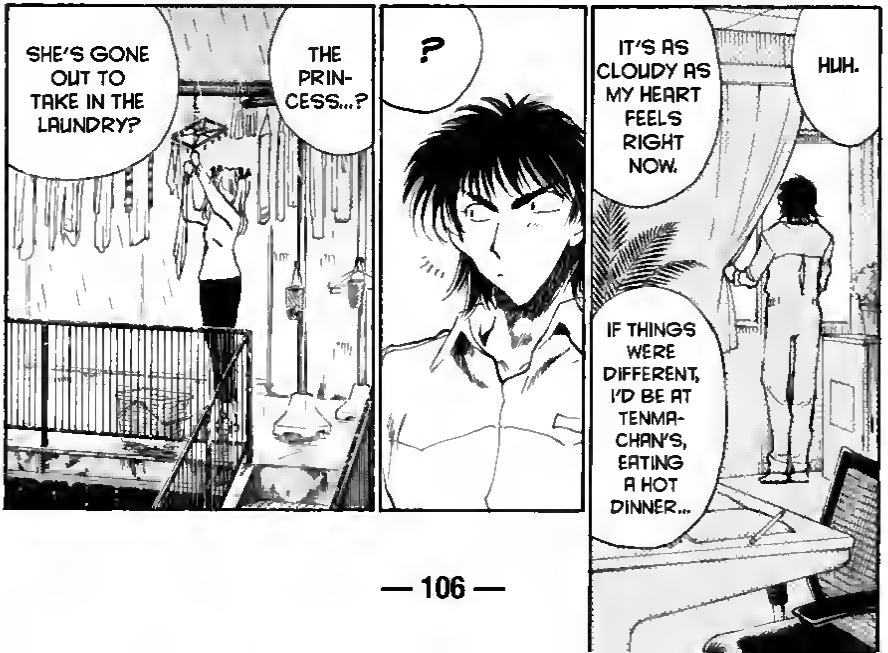
WHY ME? THE PRINCESS CAN TAKE CARE OF THAT!!
BUT
THAT'S NO JOB FOR ONE GIRL ALONE!

SO WIPE THAT LOOK OFF YOUR FACE.

BESIDES, THERE ARE THINGS THAT I CAN'T DO FOR HER THAT MAYBE YOU COULD.



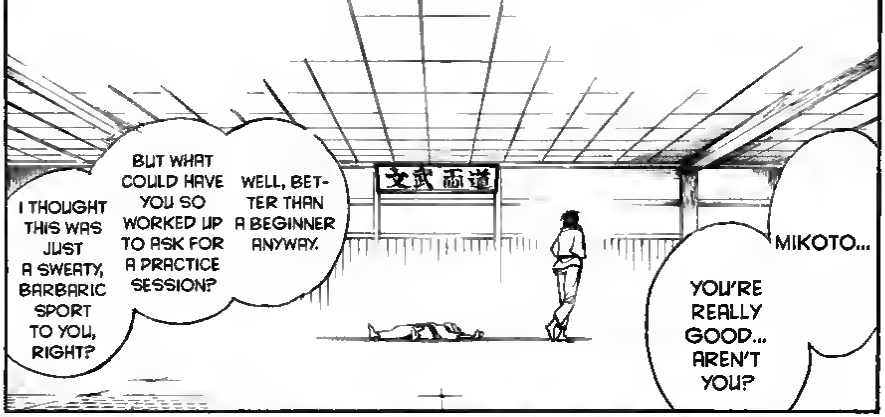
HM...?
WITH THINGS LIKE THIS, I CAN'T GET MY DRAWING... AW, I MESSED UP AGAIN!! DAMMIT!!
FIDGET
FIDGET
GRRRN...
I'D RELAX A LOT MORE IN HANAI'S DOJO!


SHE'S GONE OUT TO TAKE IN THE LAUNDRY?
THE PRINCESS...?
?
IT'S AS CLOUDY AS MY HEART FEELS RIGHT NOW.
HUH.
IF THINGS WERE DIFFERENT, I'D BE AT TENMA-CHAN'S, EATING A HOT DINNER...

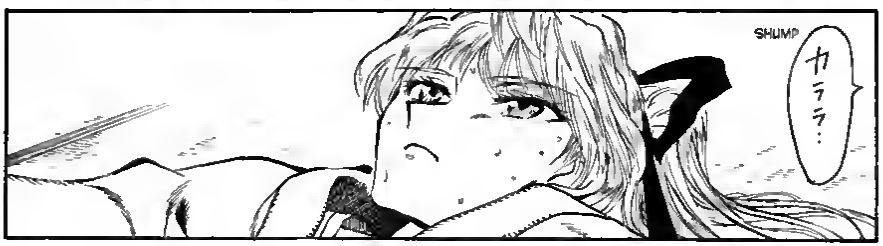
Currently Drawing a 120-page Manga. Just So You Know.

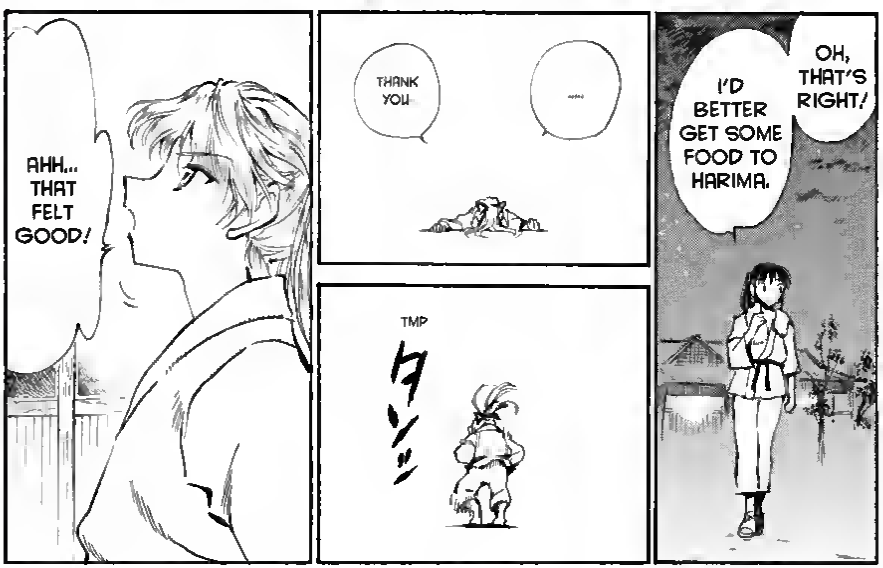
UMPH ...!
SPSSH
OH, WHY'D IT HAVE TO SUDDENLY RAIN ON ME?
IT'S NOTH-ING.
I CAN HANDLE A LITTLE JOB LIKE THIS...
I GET PAID FOR IT, AFTER ALL.
U-UM ...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH...
AH...

Late Night at Hanai's Dojo.


MIKOTO...
YOU'RE REALLY GOOD... AREN'T YOU?
WELL, BETTER THAN A BEGINNER ANYWAY.
BUT WHAT COULD HAVE YOU SO WORKED UP TO ASK FOR A PRACTICE SESSION?
I THOUGHT THIS WAS JUST A SWEATY, BARBARIC SPORT TO YOU, RIGHT?

WAS IT A GOOD WORKOUT FOR YOU?
YEAH...
ALL RIGHT.
I'M HITTING THE BATHS. SEE YOU THERE.
YEAH...


SHUMP
カラダ…

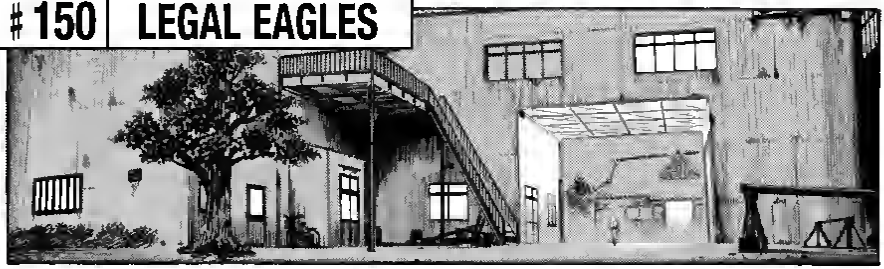

AHH... THAT FELT GOOD!
THANK YOU
...
TMP
OH, THAT'S RIGHT!
I'D BETTER GET SOME FOOD TO HARIMA.

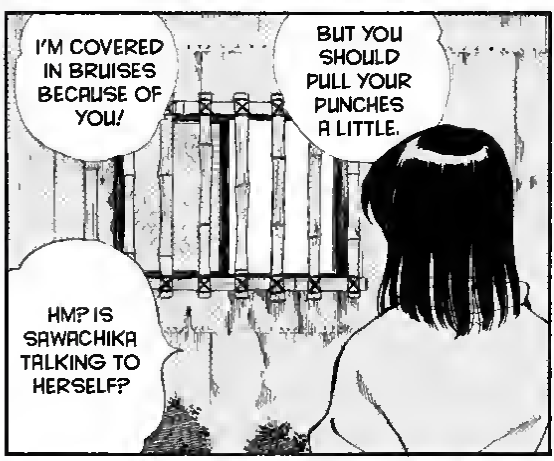
SORRY I'M LATE.
MIKOTO, YOU'RE IN THERE, RIGHT?
SHLIMP
MAYBE NOBODY'S IN THERE?
OH, SO YOU *ARE* IN HERE.
YOU COULD HAVE ANSWERED MY QUESTION, YOU KNOW!

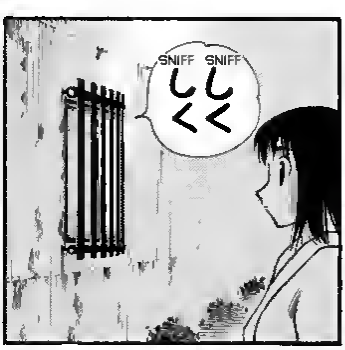
It Isn't Mikoto. Just So You Know.

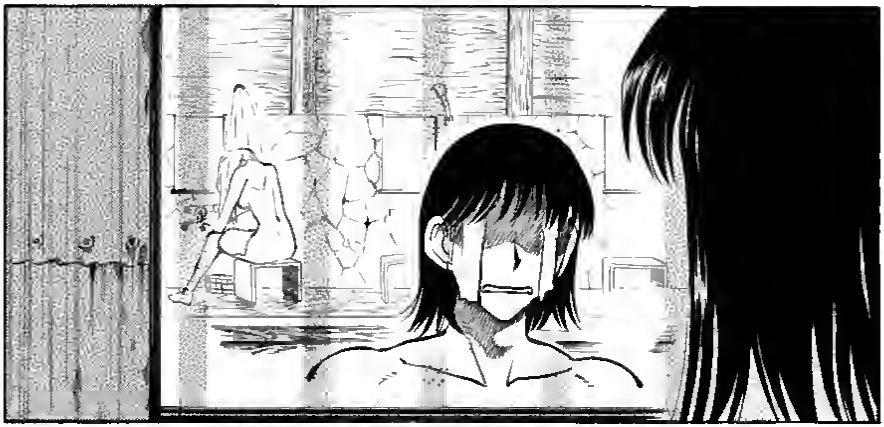
149 · · · · · · · · · Fin

#150 LEGAL EAGLES



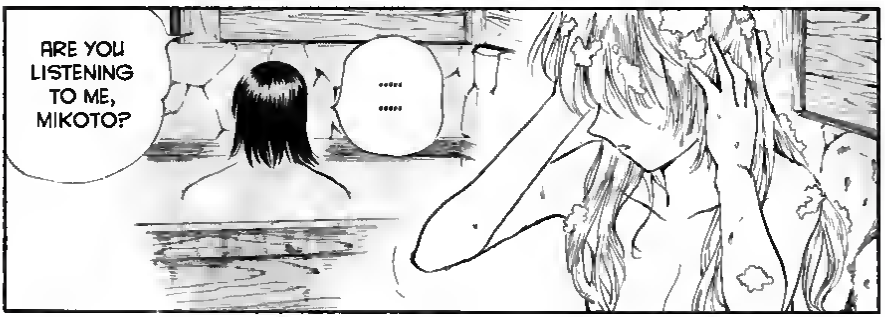




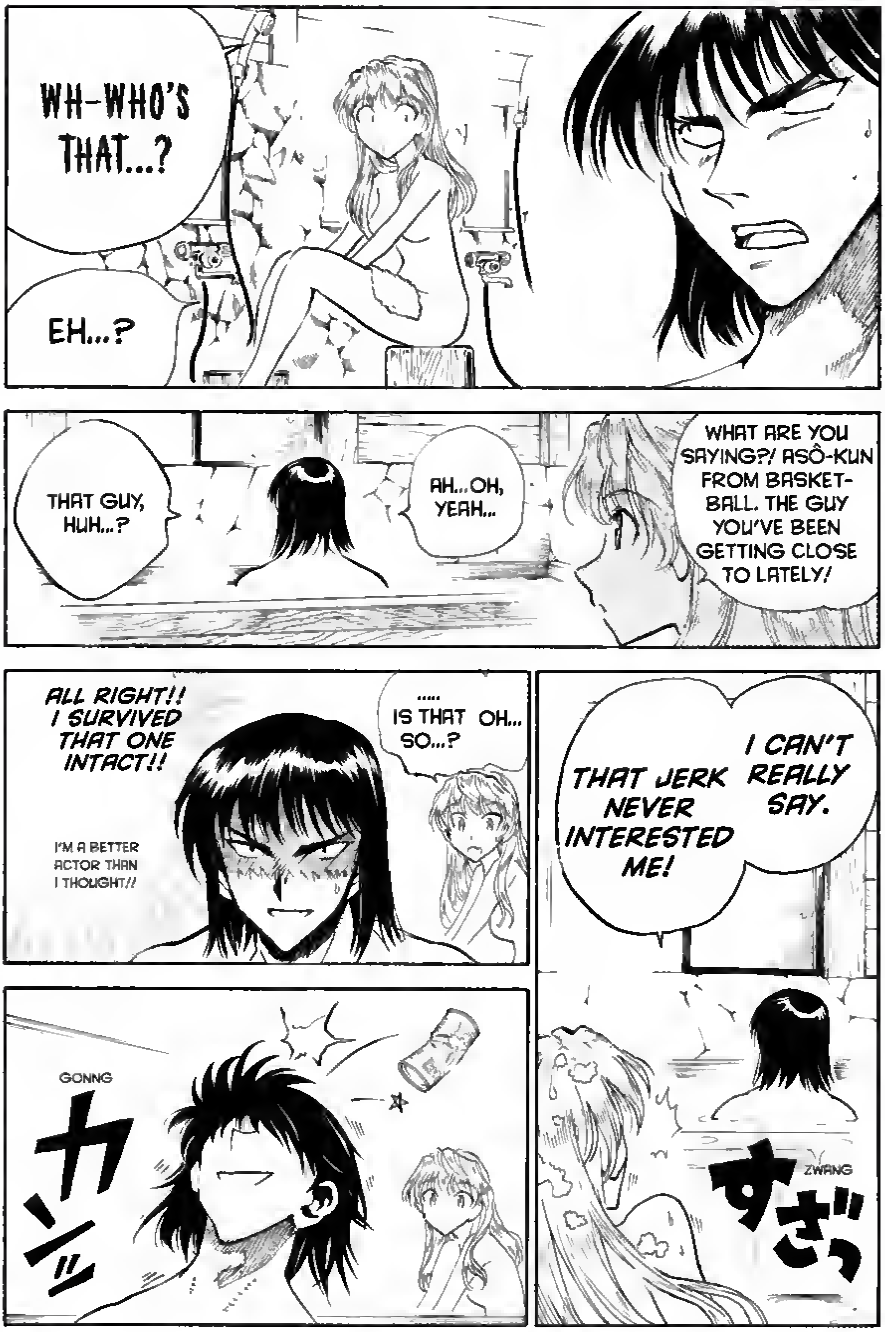


WH—WHEN DID HE GET IN OUR BATH...? WHAT ARE THE TWO OF THEM DOING?!
ARE THEY BOTH IDIOTS?!

SAY, CAN YOU TELL ME SOME-THING...?
BUT THANKS TO YOU, I FEEL A LOT BETTER.


ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME, MIKOTO?
.....
.....

GM
GM
GM
GM
GM
BUT IF THIS GOES ON, I'LL BE FOUND OUT FOR SURE!! THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO...!!
SAY, MIKOTO...
COME TO THINK OF IT, HOW ARE THINGS PROGRESSING WITH ASÔ-KUN?
DAMMIT!! HOW CAN SHE CONFUSE ME WITH SUÔ?! YOU STUPID WOMAN!!
FIGURE IT OUT BEFORE YOU COME IN HERE!!
AFTER FINALLY FINDING A PLACE TO STAY!!
THIS IS REALLY BAD!! IF SHE FINDS ME OUT, I'LL BE OUT ON THE STREET AGAIN FOR SURE!!


WH-WHO'S THAT...?
EH...?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! ASÔ-KUN FROM BASKET-BALL. THE GUY YOU'VE BEEN GETTING CLOSE TO LATELY!
AH...OH, YEAH...
THAT GUY, HUH...?
ALL RIGHT!! I SURVIVED THAT ONE INTACT!!
I'M A BETTER ACTOR THAN I THOUGHT!!
.....
IS THAT OH... SO...?
I CAN'T REALLY SAY.
THAT JERK NEVER INTERESTED ME!
ZWANG
すざっ
GONNG
カン!!

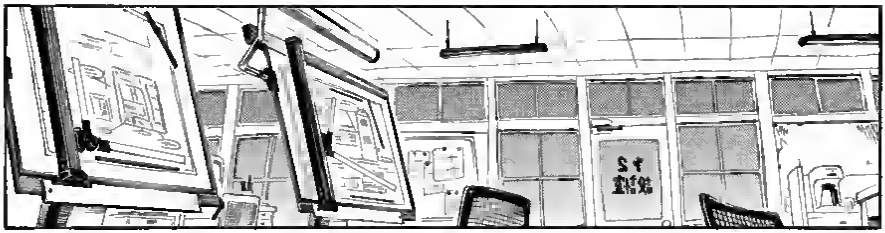
GM
GM
GM
GM
G-GOOD TIMING!
BUT FOR SOME REASON SHE SEEMS ANGRY..
!!
OH, SUÔ!!
THANKS I-I-I-

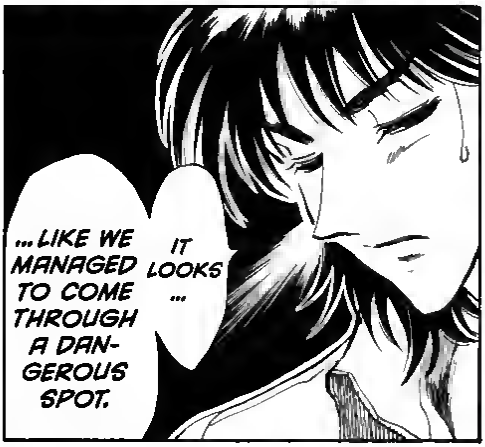
BY THE WAY, SAWACHIKA... DID YOU EVER TELL HARIMA HOW MUCH YOU LIKED HIM?
WHA—?!
しゃっ
PLASH
WH-WH-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
WHY WOULD I HAVE ANY INTEREST IN THAT FOOL?!
HEH HEH HEH
YOU LITTLE... WHAT WAS THAT FOR?!
BUT... THERE WERE A LOT OF COUPLES OUT THERE ON CHRISTMAS.
I MEAN, I SAW HIM IN TOWN YESTERDAY...
HE LOOKED LIKE HE WAS STARVING!
I DON'T EVER WANT TO END UP LIKE THAT!
GM
MADOKA AND UMEZU-KUN WERE THERE...
...AND I SAW NAGAYAMA-SAN AND TANAKA-KUN, AND...
...YOU WERE THERE WITH ASÔ-KUN, TOO...

I HAVE ...
... TO GET MAR-RIED.
J-U-S-T- D-E-A-L-W-I-T-H- I-T...
N-O-M-O-R-E I-G-I-V-E-U-P
THEN...
...WHAT HAPPENED WITH YOU?
SQUEE

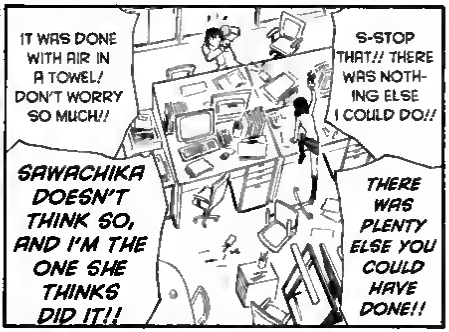
I THOUGHT FOR SURE YOU MEANT THAT YOU WERE...
OH, IS THAT WHAT YOU MEAN?!
WELL, IT'S REALLY JUST AN OMIAI ARRANGED MEETING THAT MY PARENTS WANT ME TO GO THROUGH.
B-BUT YOU CAN ALWAYS REFUSE AN OMIAI, RIGHT?
HUH...?
I PLAN TO GET ALL STUBBORN AND COME RIGHT HOME.
NO, THAT WOULD NEVER HAPPEN!
.....
YOU'RE NOT TELL-ING ME THAT YOU CAN'T REFUSE, ARE YOU?
THIS IS BAD!! SHE'S LOST IN THOUGHT AND IS LETTING HER GUARD DOWN!!
TH-THE ONLY THING LEFT IS TO MAKE A RUN FOR IT!!
BASHA
BASHA
AHHH!! W-WAIT A SECOND. THIS IS TOO CLOSE...!!
PLISH
NOW, I THINK I'LL COME IN AND SOAK...

URK ...!!
GLURBL
GLURBL
GLURBL
GLURBL
FSSHT
SHUMP
STMP
STMP
TWRL
BLOOP
BLOOP
BLOOP
BUBBLES ARE MADE WITH A TOWEL.

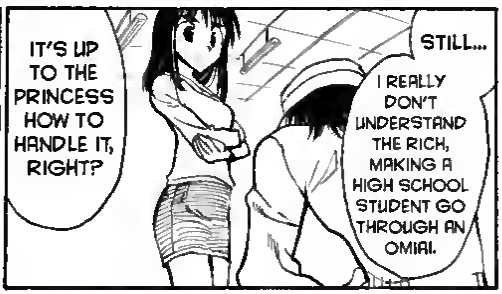


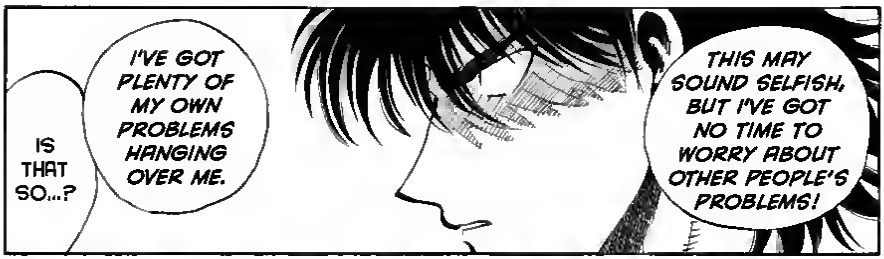

IT LOOKS ...
...LIKE WE MANAGED TO COME THROUGH A DANGEROUS SPOT.

THEN THERE'S THAT THING ABOUT SAWACHIKA'S OMIAI...
I THOUGHT SHE SEEMED A LITTLE OFF EVER SINCE SHE ARRIVED HERE.


IT WAS DONE WITH AIR IN A TOWEL! DON'T WORRY SO MUCH!!
S-STOP THAT!! THERE WAS NOTHING ELSE I COULD DO!!
SAWACHIKA DOESN'T THINK SO, AND I'M THE ONE SHE THINKS DID IT!!
THERE WAS PLENTY ELSE YOU COULD HAVE DONE!!

IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH ME!


IT'S UP TO THE PRINCESS HOW TO HANDLE IT, RIGHT?
STILL...
I REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND THE RICH, MAKING A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT GO THROUGH AN OMIAI.


IS THAT SO...?
I'VE GOT PLENTY OF MY OWN PROBLEMS HANGING OVER ME.
THIS MAY SOUND SELFISH, BUT I'VE GOT NO TIME TO WORRY ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS!

MY PARENTS WON'T BE COMING HOME TONIGHT.
AND I GUESS THE DOJO CAN BE PRETTY CHILLY, SO YOU CAN USE THIS DRAFTING ROOM.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN HERE, BY THE WAY?
GREAT. THANKS.
YOU'RE A PRETTY NICE PERSON

キン コーン
DINNG DONNG
AHH!! WILL YOU SHUT UP?!

I'VE ONLY MANAGED TO COMPLETE TEN PAGES!!
I'LL NEVER GET THIS MANGA FINISHED!
I REALLY DON'T HAVE TIME!!

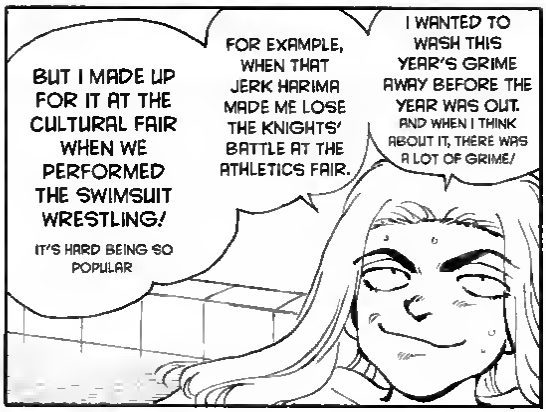
ピシャッ
PAMM

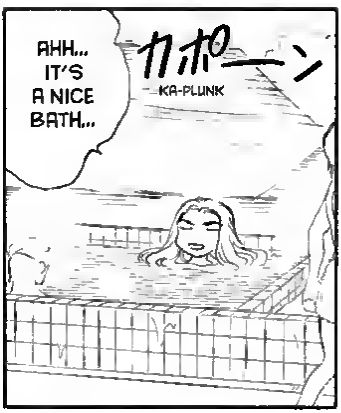
ARE YOU SAYING I LOOK OLD ENOUGH TO BE HER FATHER?!
GO HOME, KID!!

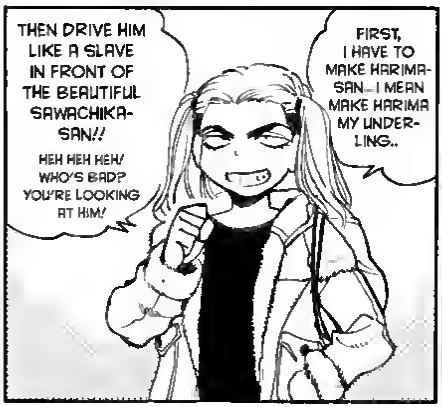
COULD YOU TELL MIKOTO THAT I'M HERE...
AH! ARE YOU A FAMILY MEMBER?

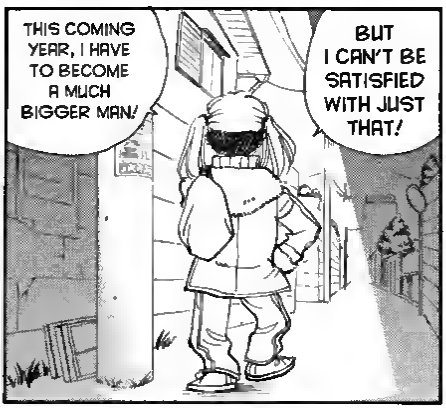
Now Make Friends and Play Nice.

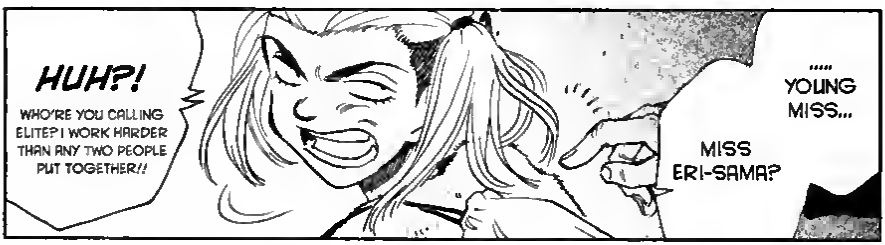
150 · · · · · · · · · Fin


BUT I MADE UP FOR IT AT THE CULTURAL FAIR WHEN WE PERFORMED THE SWIMSUIT WRESTLING!
IT'S HARD BEING SO POPULAR
FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN THAT JERK HARIMA MADE ME LOSE THE KNIGHTS' BATTLE AT THE ATHLETICS FAIR.
I WANTED TO WASH THIS YEAR'S GRIME AWAY BEFORE THE YEAR WAS OUT.
AND WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT, THERE WAS A LOT OF GRIME!




THEN DRIVE HIM LIKE A SLAVE IN FRONT OF THE BEAUTIFUL SAWACHIKA-SAN!!
HEH HEH HEH! WHO'S BAD? YOU'RE LOOKING AT HIM!
FIRST, I HAVE TO MAKE HARIMA-SAN... I MEAN MAKE HARIMA MY UNDER-LING..

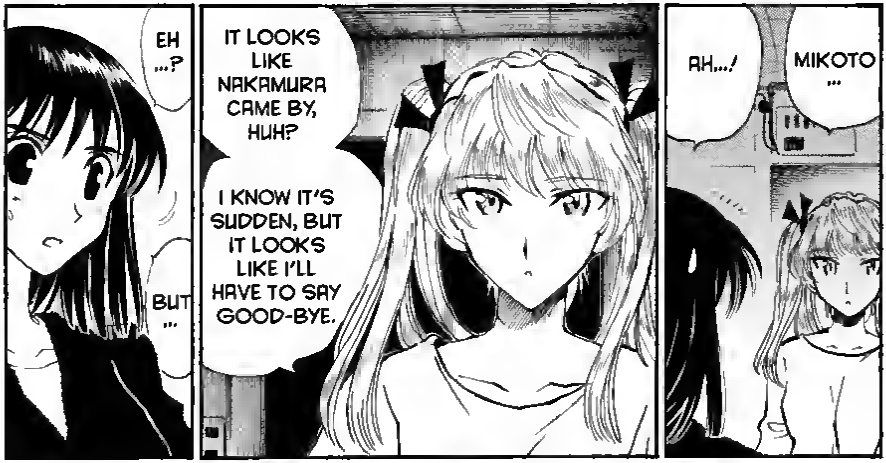


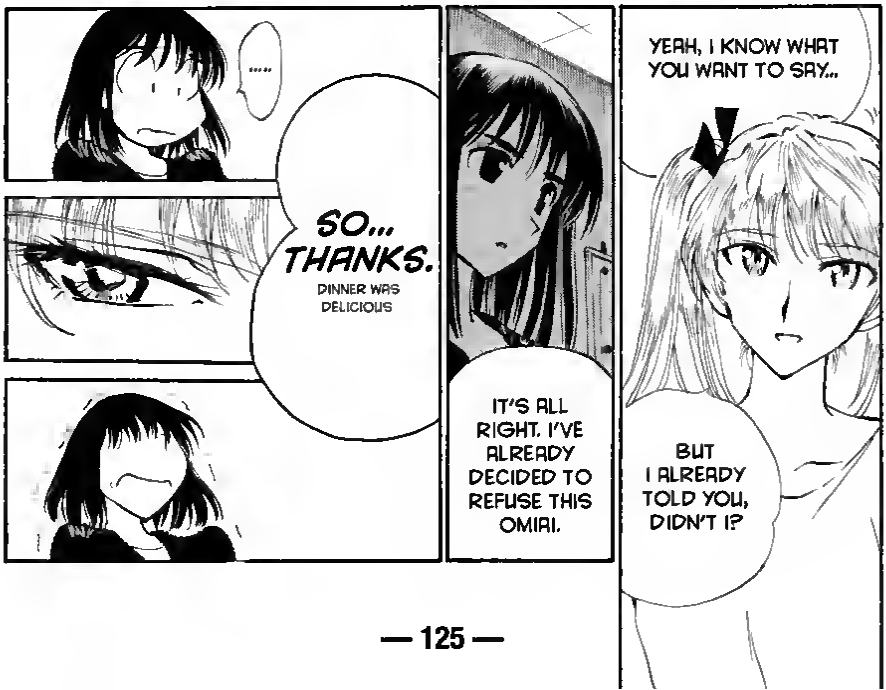


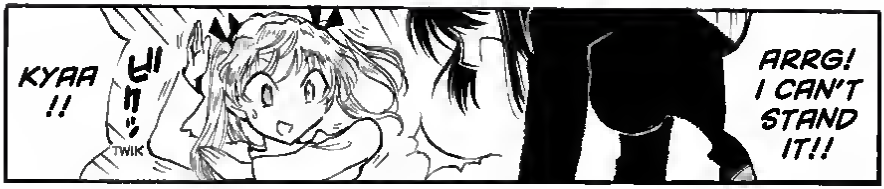
#151 THE ASSOCIATE

HM... YOU ARE NOT THE YOUNG MISS!
EH...
STAY THERE...
...FOR A WHILE.
DOOM
DOOM
THIS IS TOO CONFUS-ING...
HYAAA !!
WHAMM
"YOUNG MISS?" OH, YOU MEAN THE PRINCESS?
HM ...?
HERE
OVER
HARI.. I MEAN, MR EMPLOYEE!
HEY !!
IF YOU WANT HER, SHE'S IN BACK—
YOU'LL HAVE TO FORGIVE HIM! HE'S ANEW HERE! EXCUSE US A MOMENT...
?
?

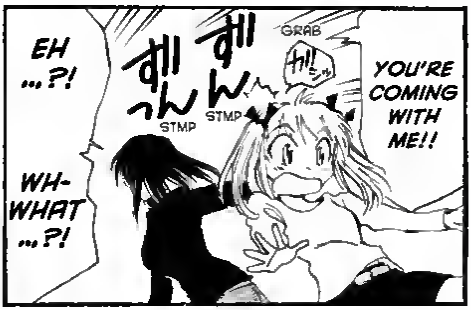
WHAT?!
DON'T GIVE ME "WHAT"!
YOU SAW HOW SAWACHIKA WAS, RIGHT?
YOU'D HAVE TO BE BLIND NOT TO SEE THAT SHE'S...
AWW... BUT I CAN'T GO BLURTING IT OUT...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?


AH...!
MIKOTO...
IT LOOKS LIKE NAKAMURA CAME BY, HUH?
I KNOW IT'S SUDDEN, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO SAY GOOD-BYE.
EH...?
BUT...


YEAH, I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO SAY...
BUT I ALREADY TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I?
IT'S ALL RIGHT. I'VE ALREADY DECIDED TO REFUSE THIS OMIAI.
SO... THANKS.
DINNER WAS DELICIOUS
.....


KYAA !!
TWIK
ARRG! I CAN'T STAND IT!!

WHAT IS ALL THIS?!
WH-WHAT? YOU PERVERT !!
TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTHES!! NOW!!
DO AS I SAY! HERE, WEAR THIS!!


EH ...?!
WH-WHAT ...?!
STMP
STMP
GRAB
YOU'RE COMING WITH ME!!

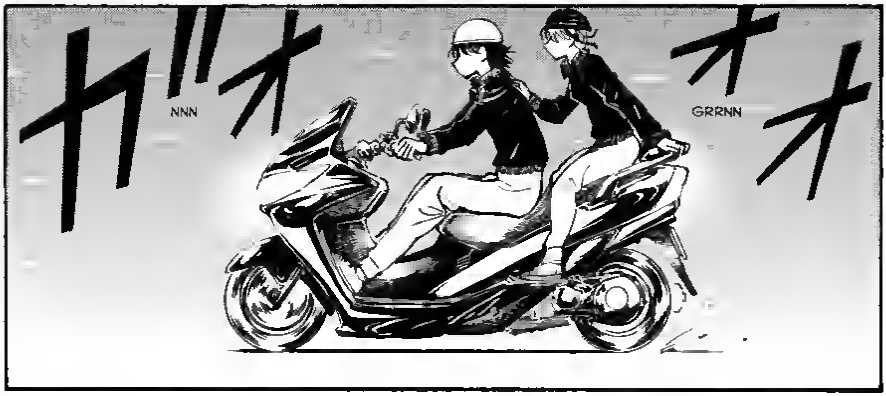
GET OUTSIDE AND TRY TO THINK WITH A COOLER HEAD!!
SO TAKE THE COMPANY MOTOR-CYCLE AND GO!!
I'M LOANING YOU THIS GUY FOR NOW!
LISTEN, SAWA-CHIKA !!
GWMM
HUHH?!

TH-THIS IS AN EMPLOYEE UNIFORM?

URK!!
DO AS I SAY!! YOU'RE A SUÔ EMPLOYEE NOW, RIGHT?!
THESE ARE ORDERS FROM THE TOP!!
HO HO HOOOO
SHINNG
HEY!! WHAT'S THIS SUPPOSED TO MEAN, SUÔ?!
I'VE GOT WORK TO DO!!

SHE'S IN YOUR HANDS !!
TSK!
GRUUUMM
NO PROBLEM! I'LL HANDLE THINGS HERE.
SEE YOU GUYS LATER!
I UNDER-STAND.
AH! EXCUSE ME, I NEEDED TO VISIT THE LADIES' ROOM!
GRMMMM
MASARU... WHY DON'T YOU ANSWER?
RRR.

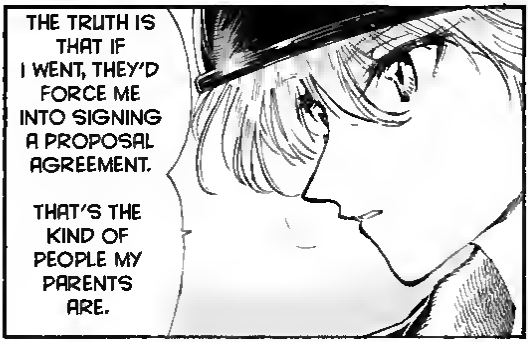
EH? WEREN'T WE HAVING NABE TONIGHT?
YAKUMO-DONO/ I HUMBLY REQUEST SUSHI TONIGHT, MY LADY/
.....
WAIT HERE A BIT.
YOU'RE SURE...? THEN I'LL JUST DROP OFF THE GROCERIES AND BE RIGHT BACK.
POIT
POIT
NEE-SAN, SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING..
I WILL NEVER FORGET THE DEBT I OWE YOU!!
MY HUMBLEST THANKS/
ZHINNG
WHY DOES SHE ALWAYS DO THIS...?
SHE CAN NEVER STAND STILL.
HUH...?
SHE ISN'T HERE...


NNN
GRRNN

HUH?
I DON'T REALLY KNOW MYSELF.
UM... WHAT WAY ARE YOU HEAD-ING?

BUT I HAVE TO DRAW MY PAGES!! I DON'T HAVE A MOMENT TO SPARE!!
DAMMIT!! NOW I'M IN TROUBLE UP TO MY EARS!!
IT ALWAYS WORKS OUT THIS WAY, BUT.

BUT YOU'RE SURE THIS IS OKAY? I HEARD SOMETHING ABOUT AN OMIAI...
YOU AIN'T KID-DING, PRIN-CESS!!
I REALLY MUST APOLOGIZE. PUTTING YOU TO ALL THIS TROUBLE FOR MY SAKE...


THE TRUTH IS THAT IF I WENT, THEY'D FORCE ME INTO SIGNING A PROPOSAL AGREEMENT.
THAT'S THE KIND OF PEOPLE MY PARENTS ARE.

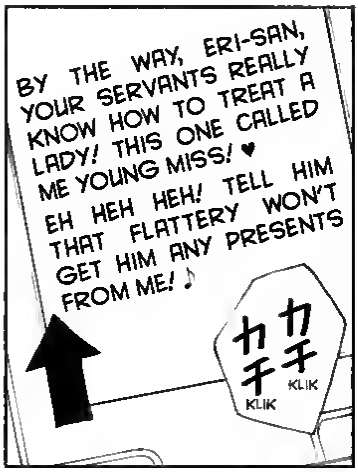
.....

THE TRUTH IS...

DIDN'T SHE SAY SHE COULD REFUSE IT?!
WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH HER?
THEN WHY...?
MAYBE I WAS JUST BEING WEAK...
HOWEVER, MAYBE THAT WAS A MISTAKE.
I'D ALREADY GIVEN UP.
SOME-WHERE IN MY HEART...
I'M NOT QUITE SURE, BUT...
...WHAT I SEE BEFORE ME NOW IS...
GRRNN

ｶﾞｱｱ
GR

ガァァ
GRRRN
EH?
WHOOSH
.....?!
GRRRNNN
ブロロ～
.....
WAIT— EHH ?!!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING, TENMA?
AND THE DRIVER WITH HER WAS FROM MY...
A-ANYWAY!! I NEED TO SEND HER A TEXT MES-SAGE!!
W-WAS THAT TENMA-CHAN, JUST NOW?

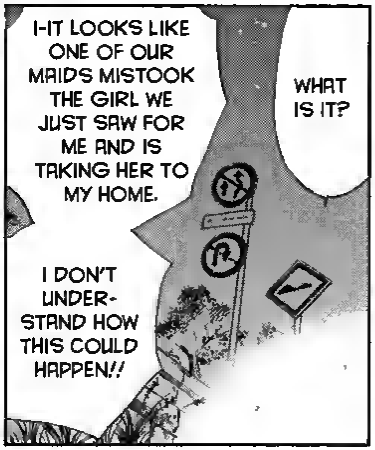

BY THE WAY, ERI-SAN, YOUR SERVANTS REALLY KNOW HOW TO TREAT A LADY! THIS ONE CALLED ME YOUNG MISS! ♥
EH HEH HEH! TELL HIM THAT FLATTERY WON'T GET HIM ANY PRESENTS FROM ME! ♪
カチ カチ
KLIK KLIK

I HEARD FROM MIKO-CHAN THAT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO HAVE AN OMIAI?? I'M SO WORRIED THAT I'M HEADING OVER TO WHERE YOU ARE! ONE OF YOUR SERVANTS CAME TO PICK ME UP, SO WE'LL BE THERE SOON! ★
BY THE WAY, ERI-SAN, YOUR SERVANTS REALLY KNOW HOW TO TREAT A LADY! THIS ONE CALLED ME YOUNG MISS! ♥
WHAT'S THIS? WHAT'S GOING ON?!

AH! SHE SENT A REPLY!

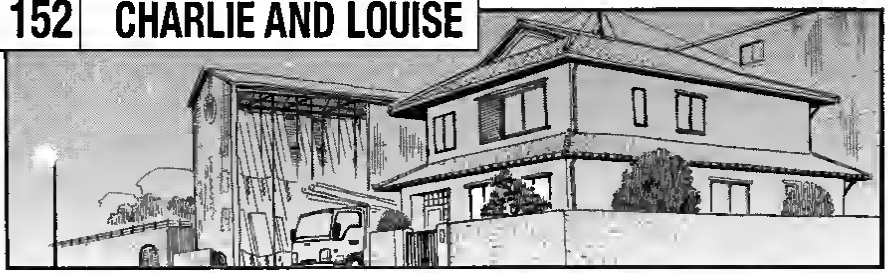
AND MASARU BEING WHO HE IS...
MASARU
SHE LOOKS NOTHING LIKE ME!!
TENMA IS... YOUNG MISS...?! YOU IDIOT!! THEY MISTOOK YOU FOR ME, AND NOW YOU'RE BEING HAULED BACK HOME!!

EH...?
GET ON THE BIKE, QUICK!!

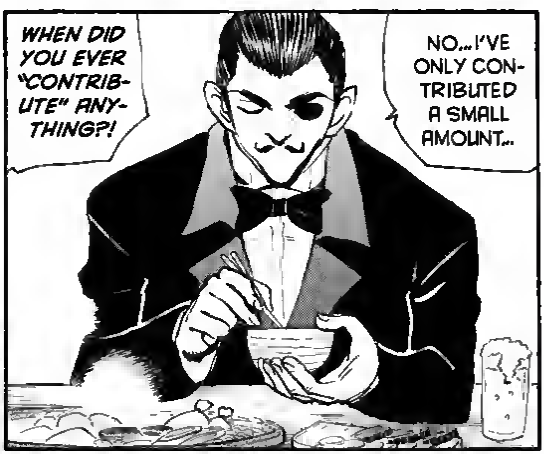

I-IT LOOKS LIKE ONE OF OUR MAIDS MISTOOK THE GIRL WE JUST SAW FOR ME AND IS TAKING HER TO MY HOME.
I DON'T UNDER-STAND HOW THIS COULD HAPPEN!!
WHAT IS IT?

I KNOW WHAT HAS TO BE DONE!
I HAVE TO GO AND BREAK THAT OMIAI TO PIECES!!
I WILL NEVER ALLOW TENMA-CHAN TO GO TO ANY OMIAI MARRIAGE MEETING!!
GRMMMM
GRRMM
I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHY IS THIS STRANGER TRYING SO HARD TO HELP ME?
..... HM...
TEMPURA, YOU SAY?
I...TOLD... YOU... I'M NOT ERI-CHAN, I'M TENMA!
SEEP ♥

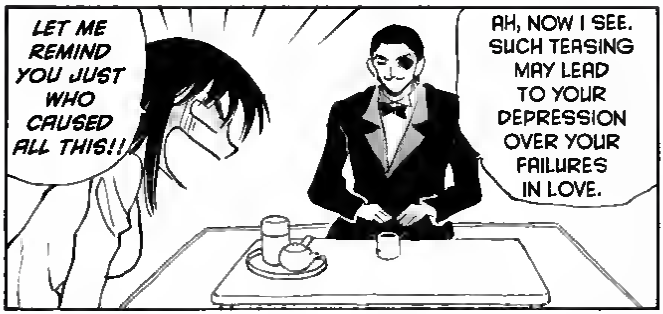
#152 CHARLIE AND LOUISE



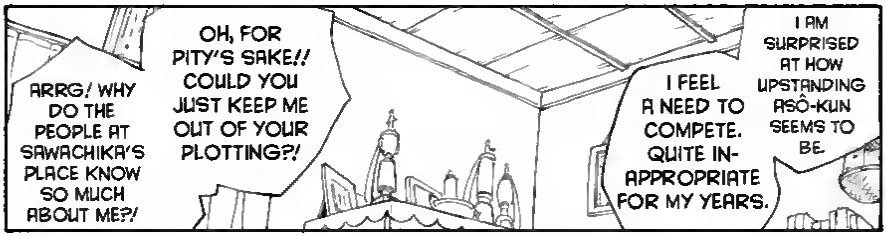
I AM MUCH OBLIGED. THEN, ANOTHER BOWL OF RICE, IF YOU PLEASE.
.....
DON'T HOLD BACK! EAT AS MUCH AS YOU WANT!!
GOOD FOR YOU!! AFTER ALL, YOU'RE ALWAYS LOOKING AFTER OUR MIKOTO, RIGHT?

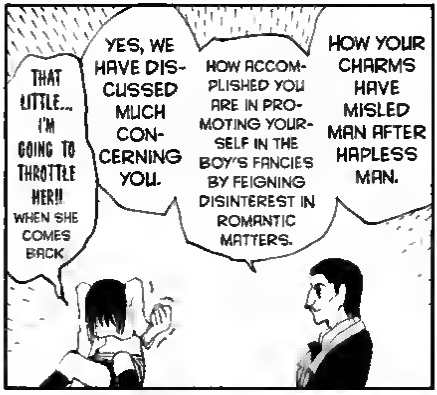


YOU TWO ARE MISTAKING HIM ON PURPOSE!! AREN'T YOU?!
WHO'D EXPECT A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT TO BE SO CONSIDERATE! ASÔ-KUN!
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR RETURNING MIKOTO'S LOST ITEM... ASÔ-KUN!
BOY, I IMAGINED YOU WERE MORE ADULT, BUT I NEVER EXPECTED YOU TO BE THIS ADULT... ASÔ-KUN!

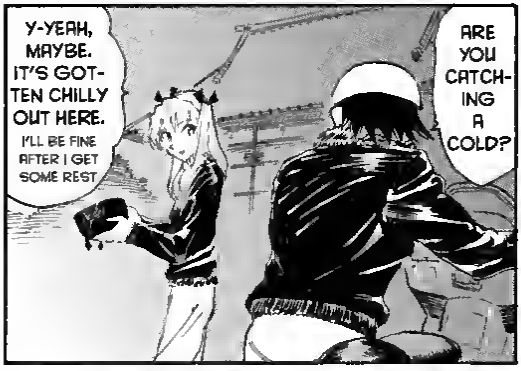

LET ME REMIND YOU JUST WHO CAUSED ALL THIS!!
AH, NOW I SEE. SUCH TEASING MAY LEAD TO YOUR DEPRESSION OVER YOUR FAILURES IN LOVE.

AWW... HOW COME THIS HAPPENS TO ME?!


ARRG! WHY DO THE PEOPLE AT SAWACHIKA'S PLACE KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT ME?!
OH, FOR PITY'S SAKE!! COULD YOU JUST KEEP ME OUT OF YOUR PLOTTING?!
I FEEL A NEED TO COMPETE. QUITE IN-APPROPRIATE FOR MY YEARS.
I AM SURPRISED AT HOW UPSTANDING ASÔ-KUN SEEMS TO BE.

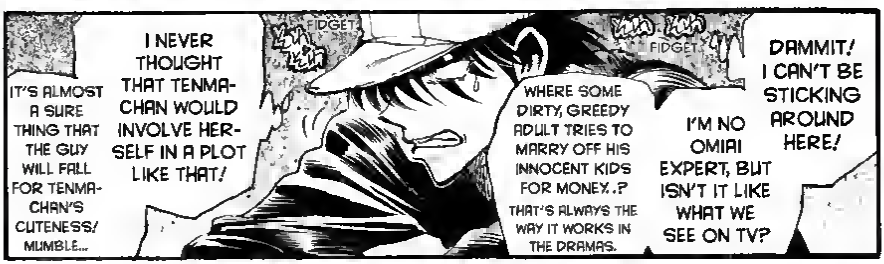

THAT LITTLE... I'M GOING TO THROTTLE HER!! WHEN SHE COMES BACK
YES, WE HAVE DISCUSSED MUCH CONCERNING YOU.
HOW ACCOMPLISHED YOU ARE IN PROMOTING YOURSELF IN THE BOY'S FANCIES BY FEIGNING DISINTEREST IN ROMANTIC MATTERS.
HOW YOUR CHARMS HAVE MISLED MAN AFTER HAPLESS MAN.

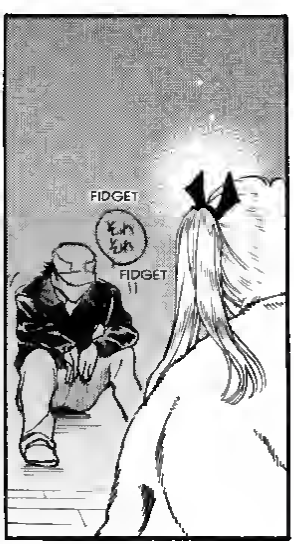
THE YOUNG MISS DESCRIBES YOU WITH SPECIAL ENJOYMENT.
I'VE BEEN WELL INFORMED


Y-YEAH, MAYBE. IT'S GOTTEN CHILLY OUT HERE.
I'LL BE FINE AFTER I GET SOME REST
ARE YOU CATCHING A COLD?

クシュン!
AK-SHUN

Wow... They're Nice at This Temple.


IT'S ALMOST A SURE THING THAT THE GUY WILL FALL FOR TENMA-CHAN'S CUTENESS/ MUMBLE...
I NEVER THOUGHT THAT TENMA-CHAN WOULD INVOLVE HER-SELF IN A PLOT LIKE THAT!
FIDGET
FIDGET
WHERE SOME DIRTY, GREEDY ADULT TRIES TO MARRY OFF HIS INNOCENT KIDS FOR MONEY..?
THAT'S ALWAYS THE WAY IT WORKS IN THE DRAMAS.
I'M NO OMIAI EXPERT, BUT ISN'T IT LIKE WHAT WE SEE ON TV?
DAMMIT! I CAN'T BE STICKING AROUND HERE!



THE TWO OF US UNDER THIS ONE BLANKET? I'D BE TOO EMBARRASSED TO EVER DO IT!
EH...?
WH-WHAT'LL I DO?
BUT, IF I DO NOTHING, WORKER-SAN WILL CATCH A COLD...
COULD SHE BE... NO...!
SHE'S GETTING ALL FIDGETY!
WHAT'S WITH HER?!
I HATE THAT ATTITUDE!!
THAT'S THE KIND OF GIRL I DISLIKE THE MOST!
THE ARROGANT, SELF-SATISFIED LITTLE...
I-IT'S POSSIBLE...
SHE PROBABLY THINKS THAT EVERY MAN IN THE WORLD WILL FALL IN LOVE WITH HER!
SHE'S SO CERTAIN THAT EVERYONE THINKS SHE'S CUTE!!
SHE DOESN'T THINK THAT I'M GOING TO TRY TO COME ON TO HER, DOES SHE?!

WELL FIRST, I'LL TRY SOME CONVERSATION. THEN, MAYBE, THE BLANKET.
GWOOGGH
U-UM...WORKER-SAN... WHEN DID YOU START WORKING FOR MIKOTO'S FAMILY BUSINESS?
HUH? O-OH... YESTERDAY.. NO, I MEAN LAST YEAR...
TWIK
YOU'RE YOUNG. YOU'RE ABOUT COLLEGE AGE, RIGHT?
DO YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?
HUH?
N-NO, I DON'T BUT...
REALLY ...?
WHAT A WASTE!
SHAME ON WOMEN EVERYWHERE!
TEE HEE
HUH?
I'M SORRY! I SHOULDN'T SHOCK YOU WITH QUESTIONS LIKE THAT.
IT LOOKS LIKE I EMBARRASSED YOU
N-NO... I DON'T REALLY MIND.
WH-WHAT WAS THAT? THAT'S WAY OUT OF CHARACTER!! SHE SHOULDN'T BE THE KIND OF GIRL THAT GIGGLES! OH...!
IS SHE TRYING TO LAY SOME KIND OF TRAP FOR ME?!

WH-WHAT CAN I SAY HERE? I CAN'T TALK ABOUT MY MANGA OR ABOUT TENMA-CHAN...
EH...?
UH...DO YOU HAVE ANY AMBI-TIONS FOR THE FUTURE, WORKER-SAN?
ALL RIGHT! THAT THREW HER OFF THE SCENT.
BUT THERE'S A PERSONAL PROJECT (120-PAGE MANGA) THAT I'D LIKE TO COMPLETE SOON.
RIGHT NOW, I'M WORK-ING FOR THE SUÔS...
L-LET'S SEE...
...SEEM TO GET IN THE WAY?
UM, WHEN YOU'RE DOING YOUR PROJECT...
...HAS THERE EVER BEEN A TIME WHEN THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU...
..... WELL... SOME-THING LIKE THAT.
IS IT CON-STRUCTION DESIGN OR SOME-THING?
THIS PROJECT YOU'RE WORK-ING ON.
EH?
NOTH-ING.
YOU MEAN LIKE RIGHT NOW?

.....
YOU'RE PRETTY STRONG, HUH?
YES!
I'M STRONG.
BUT... I'M NOT GOING TO LET ANYTHING STOP ME!
THIS GUY...
...IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM ME.
HOW CAN I GET STRON-GER?
SHOULD I START ACTING LIKE THE BOYS?
SHOULD I TRY TO BECOME MORE MATURE ?
HOW CAN I FIGHT AGAINST MY WORLD?
YEAH, THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I HAVE TO GO IN THE DIRECTION THE PEOPLE AROUND ME FORCE ON ME.
AND TO TELL THE TRUTH, I HATE IT.
BUT,..
...THINKING DOESN'T HELP THINGS YOU HAVE NO POWER TO CHANGE. SO I DON'T THINK ABOUT IT.
I JUST ACCEPT IT.
I'LL TAKE DOWN ANYBODY WHO TRIES TO GET IN MY WAY WITH THESE FIVE FINGERS!

DESPITE EVERY-THING, I'LL STILL GIVE A SMILE.
.....
THAT'S AMAZING!!
AH...WHY AM I SAYING SERIOUS STUFF TO HER?!
EH?
ZWIPP
すざっ
WHA—
GAMPH
WA!!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
もぞ
もぞ
MRFGL...
BWAAHH!

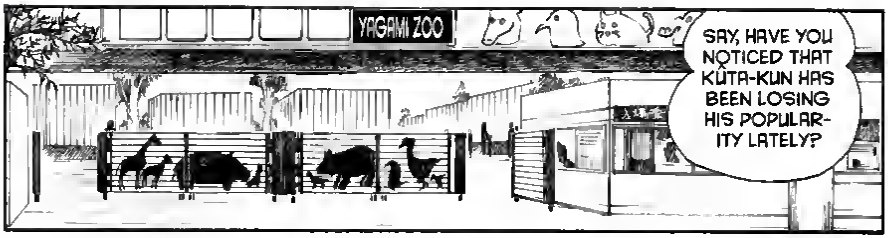
GAK!
SHFL
UM...
YOU'D CATCH COLD OTHERWISE...
IT'S TRUE!! SHE'S ACTING WAY OUT OF CHARACTER!! THIS IS CREEPY!! WHAT IS SHE AFTER?!
WH-WHAT'S WITH THIS GIRL?!
ACTUALLY, I WAS REALLY DEPRESSED JUST NOW.
EH...?
BUT THANKS TO YOU, I THINK I'VE DECIDED TO KEEP TRYING...
..... CAN I...ASK YOU FOR ONE FAVOR...?
UH... MAYBE YOU...
...ARE UNCOM-FORTABLE LIKE THIS?
EH?!
AH... N-NO... IT'S OKAY...

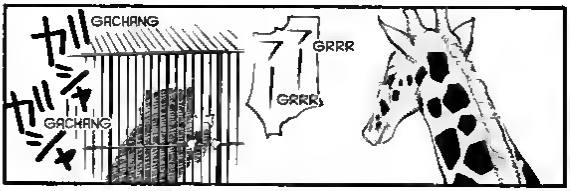
WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO...
...GO WITH ME TO THE OMIAI?
.....
HUH?
I PROBABLY SHOULD BE WORKING ON A WAY OUT OF THIS ON MY OWN, BUT...
RIGHT NOW... YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I CAN ASK.
O-OF COURSE IT WOULD ALL BE AN ACT! JUST AN ACT!
IT'S JUST A MEANS TO MAKE THE GUY I'M SUPPOSED TO MEET GIVE UP ON THE WHOLE OMIAI IDEA.
.....
O-OH!
THAT LITTLE...
.....
.....

THANK YOU.
.....
SHFF
.....
.....
WELL... I GUESS IT'S OKAY...
HM...
ZZZ
ZZZ
WHAT AM I DOING...?
YEAH, SURE ...
SHE SAYS WHAT SHE WANTS TO SAY, AND THEN... THAT'S WHY I HATE THESE RICH CREEPS...
ZZZ
ZZZ
.... NOW SHE'S GONE AND FALLEN ASLEEP!
BUT IT WAS ONLY FOR A SECOND!
FOR JUST A SECOND, SHE MADE ME THINK SHE WAS NICE!
WHAT GIVES A RICH PRINCESS THE RIGHT TO SAY THOSE THINGS?
.... HUMPH!
NOT THAT I'M IN THE LEAST BIT INTERESTED..
AND NOW SHE'S BEING TOO DAMN TRUSTING...

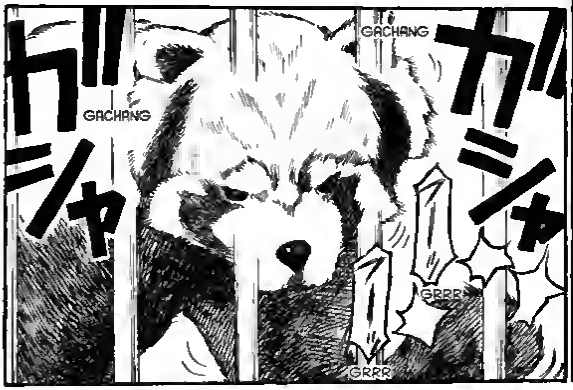
MMM... BEARD, YOU'RE THE WORST HUMAN IN HISTORY...
MMMBL..
ONE SECOND, AND THAT WAS IT!!
.....REALLY!
キュー SQUEE
キュ SQUEE
キュポン POP
スー
ZZZZ
スー
ZZZZ

152 · · · · · · · · · Fin

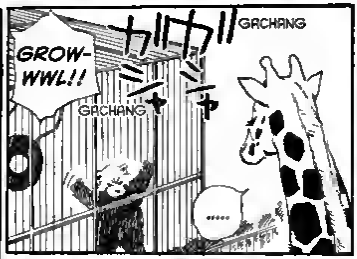

YAGAMI ZOO
SAY, HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT KÛTA-KUN HAS BEEN LOSING HIS POPULARITY LATELY?

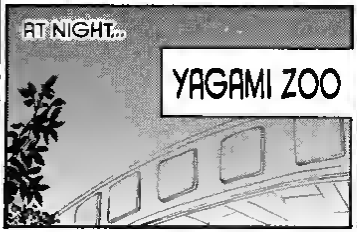

GACHANG
GACHANG
GRRR
GRRR

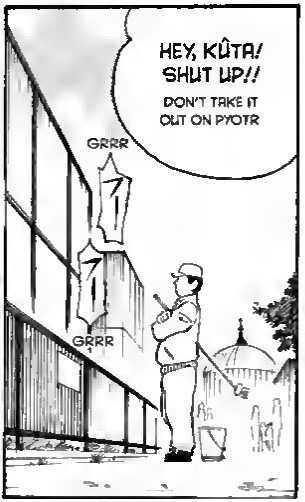
I SUPPOSE THAT AFTER YOU GET USED TO IT, EVEN A THREE-METER BEAR CAN SEEM RUN-OF-THE-MILL.
JUST UP TO LAST MONTH, THERE WAS NO END TO THE CROWDS AND JOURNALISTS.


GACHANG
GACHANG
GACHANG
GRRR
GRRR

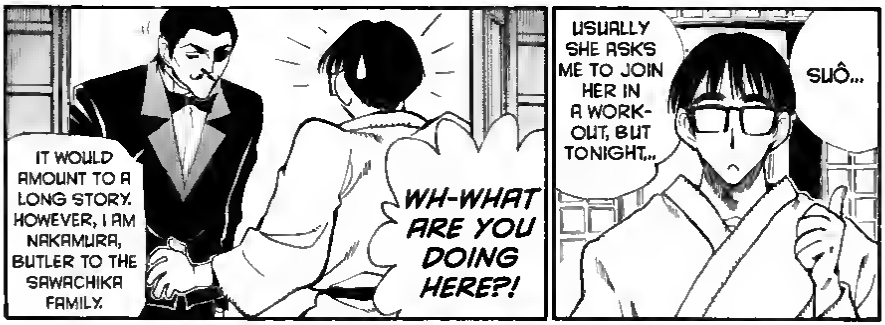
KACHANG
GACHANG
GACHANG

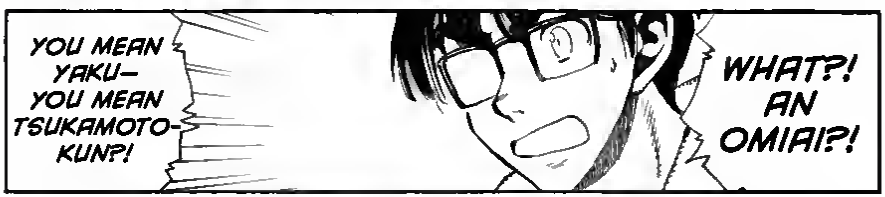

GROW-WWL!!
GACHANG
GACHANG
.....

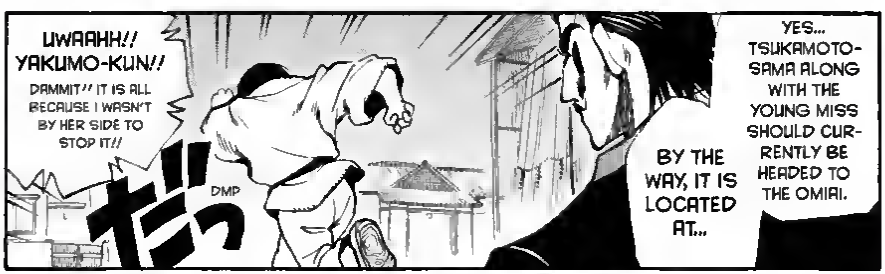

AT NIGHT...
YAGAMI ZOO

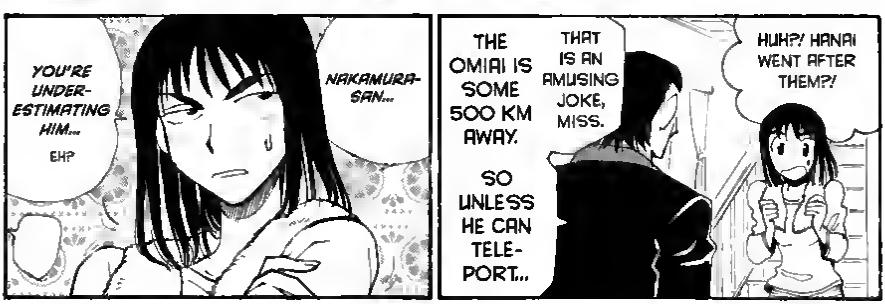

HEY, KÛTA! SHUT UP!!
DON'T TAKE IT OUT ON PYOTR
GRRR
GRRR

MEANWHILE, AT THE SUÔ RESIDENCE...


IT WOULD AMOUNT TO A LONG STORY. HOWEVER, I AM NAKAMURA, BUTLER TO THE SAWACHIKA FAMILY.
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
SUÔ...
USUALLY SHE ASK'S ME TO JOIN HER IN A WORK-OUT, BUT TONIGHT...


YOU MEAN YAKU— YOU MEAN TSUKAMOTO-KUN?!
WHAT?! AN OMIAI?!


UWAAHH!! YAKUMO-KUN!!
DAMMIT!! IT IS ALL BECAUSE I WASN'T BY HER SIDE TO STOP IT!!
DMP
BY THE WAY, IT IS LOCATED AT...
YES... TSUKAMOTO-SAMA ALONG WITH THE YOUNG MISS SHOULD CURRENTLY BE HEADED TO THE OMIAI.


YOU'RE UNDER-ESTIMATING HIM...
EH?
NAKAMURA-SAN...
THE OMIAI IS SOME 500 KM AWAY.
SO UNLESS HE CAN TELE-PORT...
THAT IS AN AMUSING JOKE, MISS.
HUH?! HANAI WENT AFTER THEM?!

VOOOM
SKREE
SKREE
SKREE
HUWAAHH!!
I, HANAI HARUKI, WILL BE THERE TO SAVE YOU, SO WAIT FOR ME!!
SHUUUM
TO BE FORCED INTO AN OMIAI WITH THAT FOOL HARIMA!! IT MUST BE SO PAIN-FUL FOR YOU, YAKUMO-KUN!!
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
SO THERE'S A TEMPLE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!
OH!
WHEEZE!
WHEEZE!
Y-YES, I CAN FEEL THE PAIN...

OF COURSE, THAT'S WHY I ALWAYS STOCK MY BACKPACK WITH FOOD-STUFFS.
NOT TO BE A BRAGGART, BUT I MISS NO DETAIL
TEA
DINNER ROLLS
HOKAIRON HAND WARMERS
GRILLED CHICKEN
HAHH...IT'S GOTTEN COMPLETELY DARK.
IS SOME-BODY THERE?
HUH?
MWAFF
もそもそ
MWAFF
THIS TEMPLE SURE IS NICE TO TRAVELERS/
BUT...IT'S SO WARM/
IT FEELS...
フカフカ
FWIFT
FWIFT
FFT
フニッ
HM?
AH/ IT'S SIMPLY A FUR COAT.
EH?
GRRRRRR
PWIP
ぐぅぅるる..

Grrrrrrrrr.
HM? IT SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING'S GOING ON OUT BACK.
KRATTLE
KRATTLE
KATRMM
ガタン
ZZZ
スー
ZZZ
I MUST'VE IMAGINED IT...
ZGLL
ZGLL
ZGLL
GLANCE
GLANCE
H-HELP ME...

DMP
...BUT TO AIM HIGH FOR THE TEMPLES!!
...IS TO FEIGN A LOW BLOW...
GRRRR
BAMM
PAMM
THE FIRST THING TO DO WHEN FACING A MUCH LARGER OPPONENT...
WHAT'S A LESSER PANDA DOING HERE?!
NO...FIRST I MUST THINK OF SELF PRESERVATION!
I DIDN'T COUNT ON IT DROPPING TO ALL FOURS AT THE START!!
OH NO...
I ONLY KNOW HOW TO ATTACK SENSITIVE SPOTS ON HUMANS!!
WHAMM
D-DAM-MIT!!
WHAT IS IT DOING?!
WH—

Kûta-kun: This Is Its Second Appearance. (Chapter 146)

ドガァ!
DWRMM
IT STOOD UP!!
DMP
NOW TO FINISH THIS!!
ZUSHANN
GYAAAA!!
I PULLED MY PUNCH ON THAT ONE!
URK ...!
GWAAA!!
TH-THAT WASN'T FAIR!!
WHRMM
IT'S...
IT'S SO CUTE!! ♡
KYUU!
CUTE..

COCKADOODLEDOO!
CHEEP CHEEP CHEEP
THE NEXT DAY...
YEAH...
BUT I'M FEELING A LITTLE HUNGRY, HUH?
I REALLY SLEPT WELL!
AHHH!!
I NEVER NOTICED THEM LAST NIGHT!
OH, THERE ARE EVEN HAND WARMERS!
ホカロン
ホカロン
ゴールドン
HEY, THEY LEFT BEHIND SOME ROLLS AND STUFF.
THE GUYS FROM THIS TEMPLE ARE REALLY NICE!
AH! HE'S SO CUTE...
AFTER THE HUGE COMMOTION LAST NIGHT ON HIS ESCAPE, KŪTA-KUN WAS SAFELY RETURNED TO THE ZOO THIS MORNING
NOW HE'S EVEN MORE POPULAR WEARING HIS NEW GLASSES!

Yes, Hanai is Truly a Nice Person.

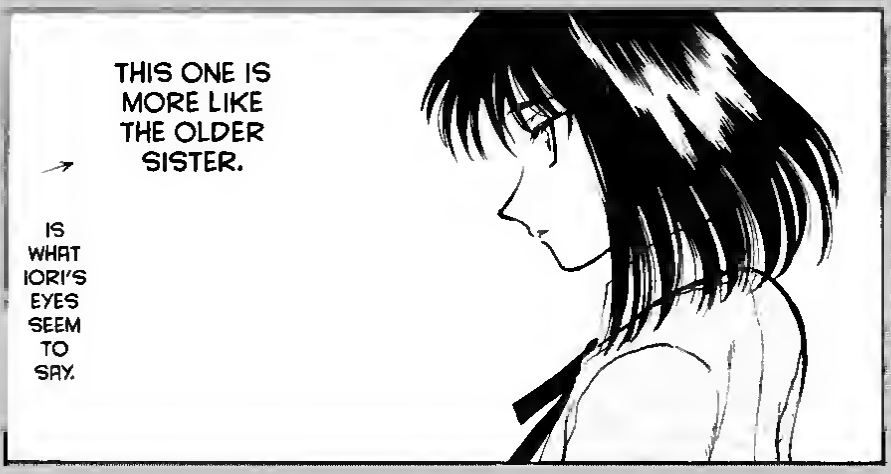
[TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 13]

BONUS RUMBLE

SPECIALLY DRAWN FOR THIS VOLUME.

BONUS RUMBLE

BONUS RUMBLE



YOU WANT TO KNOW MY SECRET? YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY I WAS WEARING A PENGUIN SUIT?
EVEN IF I SAID THAT I'D GIVE YOU A KISS?
NO, I'M GOOD.
NO, REALLY. I'M GOOD.

HALF OF TÔGÔ MASAKAZU IS FILLED WITH HIS ENDLESS BURNING PASSION, AND THE OTHER HALF IS FILLED WITH THIS INDOMITABLE COMBATIVE SPIRIT, WHILE YET ANOTHER HALF IS FILLED WITH HIS UNWAVERING CONFIDENCE, AND ONE MORE HALF IS BOILING OVER WITH COURAGE. BUT THAT ISN'T ALL! ANOTHER HALF IS FILLED TO OVERFLOWING WITH KINDNESS.
AH, I SEE YOU HAVE A GOOD EYE FOR QUALITY TRAITS!! WELL, THE NEXT HALF IS FILLED...

About the Creator

Jin Kobayashi was born in Tokyo. *School Rumble* is his first manga series. He has answered these questions from his fans:

What is your hobby?
Basketball

Which manga inspired you to become a creator?
Dragon Ball

Which character in your manga do you like best?
Kenji Harima

What type of manga do you want to create in the future?
Action

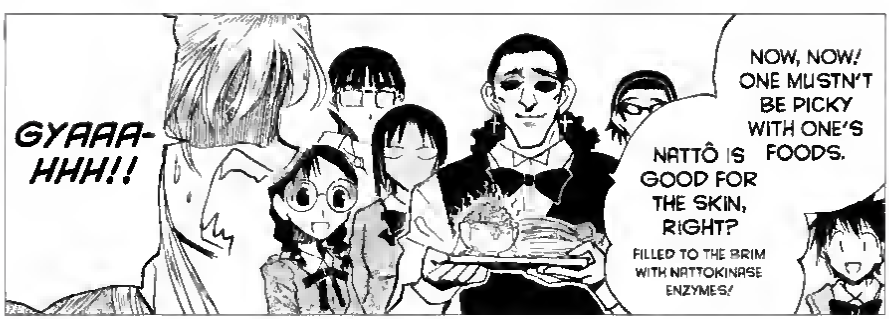
Name one book, piece of music, or movie you like.
The Indiana Jones series

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Foreigners and Eating *Nattô*, page 5

There are foods in nearly every culture that are generally loved by those within the culture and abhorred by almost anyone coming to the culture from the outside. Hawaii has poi, the Inuit have muqtuq blubber, and the Japanese have *nattô*. *Nattô* is a fermented soybean dish with a strong smell in which beans are connected by a viscous, stringy, slimy fluid (if you get the impression that this translator is one of those who dislike *nattô*, well, you're right). To play *nattô*-lover's advocate for a moment, the dish is very nutritious, and it contains nattokinase, a fibrinolytic enzyme which is said to prevent clotting in the arteries. Of course, there are Western lovers of *nattô*, and a large number of Japanese who do not eat it—in other words, there are always exceptions—but the rule is, Japanese love *nattô* and foreigners can't stand the stuff.


GYAAA-HHH!!
NOW, NOW! ONE MUSTN'T BE PICKY WITH ONE'S FOODS.
NATTÔ IS GOOD FOR THE SKIN, RIGHT?
FILLED TO THE BRIM WITH NATTOKINASE ENZYMES!

Not being picky with food, page 5

One of the tasks that Japanese parents set on themselves is convincing their children to eat everything served regardless of whether they like the taste or not. This becomes essential during the child's elementary school days, since it is in very bad form to refuse anything that is served in the school-provided lunches. (In some cases it's a punishable offense.) As a result, someone who is picky with his food is considered to be very childish.

Royal "We," page 6

In Western monarchies, the ruler spoke not only for his/herself, but also for the people of the land, so the monarch used what is called the royal "we." Whenever a Western monarch spoke, he/she used "we" when referring to his/herself (rather than "I"). In this panel, Tenma is acting as the ruling Shogun did in the Edo period (or at least as actors playing the Shogun do in Japanese TV period dramas). It's high and mighty enough to deserve a royal "we," so that's how I translated the line.

Kôshien, page 28

Kôshien is the name of the ballpark in which the baseball team from Osaka, the Hanshin Tigers, play. However, every year in the spring and late summer, the finals of the national high-school baseball tournament are held in Kôshien Stadium. So the tournament itself has been called Kôshien for ages. Since there is no minor-league system for Japanese baseball, the next generation of baseball stars usually comes out of Kôshien, and as a result, the tournaments are watched with as much fervor as the "March Madness" NCAA basketball tournament is viewed in the U.S. It is the dream of every high-school baseball player to go to Kôshien, and its tournament style of play makes it especially suited to manga storytelling. Countless Kôshien-themed manga have been written, and it has become something of a cliché in manga and similar entertainment.

Chi, page 30

Pronounced *ki* by the Japanese, this flow of energy through the body is the basis of most Chinese medicine, as well as of martial-arts manga everywhere.

Writing in hiragana, page 40

The complicated Chinese characters, kanji, that are an integral part of the Japanese written language are not easily learned. The simplest characters are learned in first grade, and each additional grade adds greater numbers and more complexity until by graduation from high school, every student has learned some two thousand kanji. Since young children haven't learned kanji yet, many use the easier-to-write hiragana. How much one writes in hiragana is an indicator of how much education one has. So it would be considered very childish (or academically lazy) for a high-school-aged boy to write only in hiragana.

Hatenkô Mode, page 42

Found in the title *Hatenkô Robo Dojibiron,* Hatenkô Mode means "Heaven-Breaking" Mode. Many giant robot programs mix Japanese and English for their attacks, weapons, etc. to make for a mix that's appealing to Japanese children and anime fans.

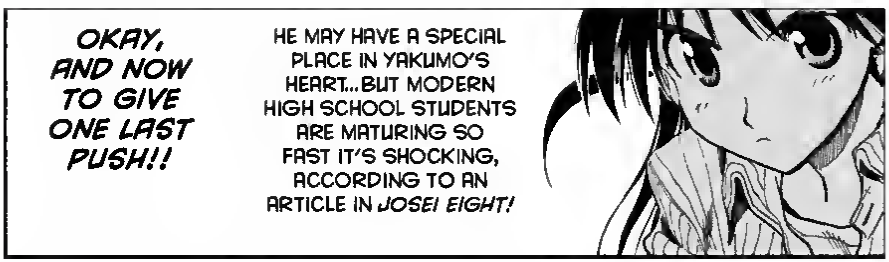
HEY, YOU'VE GOT A NICE CARD THERE! YOU WANT TO TRADE IT FOR SOMETHING?
ALL RIGHT, THEN I TURN TO HATENKÔ MODE, AND REVERSE MY LUCK FOR THE BETTER!
I ASKED YOU TO KEEP IT QUIET...

Sans Toit ni Loi, page 87

The title of this French film translates out to "Without Roof or Rule," and was released in the U.S. under the title of *Vagabond*.

Josei Eight, page 90

The real-world version of *School Rumble's Josei Eight* is *Josei Seven*, a weekly women's magazine published by publishing giant Shogakukan that features news, fashion, cooking, money, and health and beauty tips.


OKAY, AND NOW TO GIVE ONE LAST PUSH!!
HE MAY HAVE A SPECIAL PLACE IN YAKUMO'S HEART...BUT MODERN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE MATURING SO FAST IT'S SHOCKING, ACCORDING TO AN ARTICLE IN JOSEI EIGHT!

Ushiya, Beko-chan, and Christmas Cake, page 95

The huge corporation that makes sweets, Fujiya, has a mascot, Peko-chan. She is a cartoon drawing of a little girl tasting something sweet, which has been made into statues and placed outside of every Fujiya shop in Japan. Take off the horns, and *School Rumble's* Beko-chan looks much like Peko-chan. Fujiya and other stores sell Christmas cakes as the holiday approaches. This big, fluffy, sugar-loaded cake

OH, SO YOU'VE FINALLY OPENED YOUR EYES, TENMA-CHAN!
NOW TAKING ORDERS FOR CHRISTMAS CAKES
WHAT'RE YOU DOING, HARIMA?
TALKING TO BEKO-CHAN?

has become a traditional Christmas food in Japan—and orders for such cakes are taken at least a month in advance. The Japanese think this tradition comes from America, but it more likely comes from France, where a cake in the shape of a yule log is a popular Christmas treat.

Eri, Elite, page 123

As has been mentioned before in notes for this series and others, the Japanese have a hard time distinguishing between the spoken letters L and R. As an example, words like "correction" sound exactly like "collection" to Japanese ears. So when Jirô hears the word "Eri," he mistakes it for the English loan-word "elite." Since it would be insulting for a *yakuza*-style underling to be called elite, he takes offense.

Tempura, page 134

In the Japanese version, Masaru's mishearing of Tenma's name was the sound-alike word *menma* (pickled bamboo shoots), but although it's a standard joke in Japanese to get the first syllable wrong, it's not quite so easy to translate this pun. I substituted a different food, tempura, since that is more familiar to Western readers yet is still a uniquely Japanese food.

UMAs, page 168

UMA (pronounced *yûma* by the Japanese, much like UFO is pronounced *yûfô*) stands for Unidentified Mysterious Animals, and like UFOs, they are related to as-yet-unexplained phenomena. Examples would be the Loch Ness Monster and Bigfoot.